



WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 21, No. 4

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

August 2010

Olympia Food Co-Op removes Israeli products

Frequently Asked Questions about the boycott movement

by Phan Nguyen

On July 15, the Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors agreed to honor the international boycott of Israeli products, in recognition of the 2005 Palestinian civil society call for BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions). Since then, there have been a lot of condemnations of the boycott before attempting to understand it. Proponents of the boycott have at best been accused of being “misguided” and at worst been called “anti-Semites” or race traitors. These condemnations occurred before questions about the boycott were even posed.

This FAQ addresses some of the most commonly heard anti-boycott arguments since the protests began. None of the questions and arguments posed below are straw arguments. They have all been routinely evoked.

This article has been prepared independently of the Olympia Food Co-op by an individual Co-op member and are not representative of the Co-op board or staff. Answers to more frequently asked

questions are available on the website www.olympiabds.org.

Before we proceed to the FAQ, we must note that many misgivings about the boycott are based on lack of knowledge about activism and tools for social change. Some basic tenets help cover many common questions:

1. Boycott is a tactic, not a principle.

This concept was most eloquently detailed by Nelson Mandela. A boycott is initiated to create change. It is not a tool of rejection, retribution, punishment, or disgust. When workers go on strike, it is not because they hate their employers and want to kill them; it is because they seek improvement in their working conditions. A boycott works the same way.

When an individual refuses to purchase a product due to ethical considerations, that is a principled stand. The stand by itself does not create change. However, when a call for boycott is instituted and a movement begins that refuses to participate in the consumption of an item, then it becomes a *tactic* for creating change, with consumer power as its weapon.



2. Boycotting Israel does not preclude doing anything about anything else anywhere.

Boycotting Israel does not mean one cannot engage in any other activism, nor does it imply that boycotting is the only viable tactic in the world. There are many causes in the world and many ways to address those causes. Boycotting Israel does not prevent anyone from engaging in other causes. Likewise, other important causes should not be exploited simply to prevent doing something about the Palestine/Israel conflict, in which we are complicit.

3. The BDS movement on Israel is international, it's grassroots, it's growing, and it's working.

The movement for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) began in 2005, when over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations working both in Palestine and Israel issued an international call for participation in nonviolent action to compel Israel to abide by international law and end human rights abuses. The call has been picked up internationally. This new BDS movement has been endorsed and/or practiced by prominent figures such as Desmond Tutu, Arundhati Roy, Rigoberta Menchu, Shirin Ebadi, Eduardo Galeano, Alice Walker, Gil Scott-Heron, and Elvis Costello.

Additionally, it is endorsed by several organizations, including Code Pink, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Boycott from Within (Israel), Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Queers Against Israeli Apartheid, Palestinian Queers for BDS, Central Única dos Trabalhadores, Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and Fédération Syndicale Unitaire.

The Olympia Food Co-op's boycott in particular has been publicly endorsed by Naomi Klein, Cindy Sheehan, Medea Benjamin (Code Pink), Ann Wright, Richard Falk (UN Special Rapporteur), Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, nomy lamm, An-

thony Arnone, Yonatan Shapira (Israeli Air Force captain and co-founder of Combatants for Peace), American Jews for a Just Peace, the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, and many more.

Israel is taking the growing BDS movement seriously. It has arrested Palestinian leaders who endorse BDS. The Knesset is now considering legislation that would make it illegal for Jewish Israeli activists to endorse BDS.

4. We were already taking sides before the Co-op boycott was instituted.

By stocking Israeli goods in the midst of an international call for boycott, and for the Co-op to continue to do so after a working member requested the honoring of the boycott two years ago, the Co-op was already taking sides. This is in addition to the US government being the primary enabler of Israel, giving Israel \$3+ billion a year, which is equal to or more than the total amount of US aid given to all of sub-Saharan Africa. The US government also provides diplomatic cover and political support for Israel's oppression of the Palestinians.

With these tenets in mind, here are some frequently posed arguments, in the form of frequently asked questions.

Does the Co-op boycott call for the destruction of Israel?

No. The boycott calls for compliance with international law and human rights.

Many protesters claim that the Co-op Board of Directors is intent on destroying Israel through the boycott. One of the signs held by a protester claimed that the boycott would be in effect until “Israel ceases to exist.” A call to action by the anti-Arab/anti-Muslim organization StandWithUs claims the boycott calls for “nothing less than the disbanding of Israel as a Jewish state.” These claims exploit common fears. Nothing in the Co-op's boycott calls for the destruction of Israel.

According to the Co-op's Israel boycott policy, the conditions for ending the boycott cite the conditions outlined in the Palestinian Civil Society call for BDS. According to the Palestinian call, this requires Israel to “meet[] its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully compl[y] with the precepts of international law.”

Thus the conditions for ending the boycott are based on international law. International law does not call for the destruction of Israel. The Palestinian BDS call requires that Israel “end[] its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands....” As recognized by international law, these occupied Arab lands refer to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Je-

► **BOYCOTT**, continued on page 6

Plan B access in jeopardy

On July 14, in a surprising move, the Board of Pharmacy unanimously announced it intends to reverse its 2007 decision requiring pharmacists to fill prescriptions regardless of their personal moral or religious beliefs. If the ruling is indeed reversed, any pharmacist will be able refuse to dispense a prescription citing moral objection as long as they refer a client to another pharmacy that is willing to sell it. While the proposed rule change does not specifically name any type of medication, and therefore applies to all prescriptions, it's obvious that the new ruling will most negatively affect equal access to birth control, especially for low-income women and women in rural areas of the state, as well as adding additional stigma for rape victims needing emergency contraception.

Oddly enough, a spokesperson from Attorney General Rob McKenna's Office suggested the BoP's proposed new ruling will be a way for patients to quickly get their needs met by having to go to another pharmacy. In addition, she said the BoP took into consideration the probable lengthy legal fight over the

2007 ruling.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had already ruled that the 2007 pharmacy rule was neutral, constitutional, and served “a legitimate need to help ensure timely access to medications.” Vandana Slatter, a member of the BoP as well as a board member of NARAL once said the previous rules “both reassure the public and also emphasize to pharmacists and pharmacies that those with a valid prescription are to be guaranteed timely and respectful access to their medication.” [KOMO] And Governor Gregoire said that, if anything, access to birth control should be *easier* than it is now.

In 2007, the main opposition to the Stormans lawsuit locally was a group of dedicated women's rights activists operating under the name Plan B Oly. However, since that time, key organizers have moved away, and the group's website has since lapsed. WIP was unable to contact any members of Plan B Oly for this issue. Perhaps the day can still be saved, if this key vacuum in activist leadership can be addressed in time...

Read more on this story on pages 4 & 5

Local news and stories

by Haden Michaels

Who polices the police?

The recent arson fires at the new City Hall building were followed by the rapid arrest of a registered sex offender whose GPS device placed him in the vicinity of the fires. This prompt arrest brings to mind the prompt, convenient and mistaken arrest of a homeless man in the rape of an eleven year old girl in 2007. In the rape case, the prompt arrest may have given an immediate sense of efficient policing, but DNA evidence led to the conviction of another person and in retrospect, that whole episode leaves an impression that the “usual suspects” had been rousted in response to the rape incident. We are following the arson story and waiting for production of physical evidence to support the GPS tracking. This arson arrest may turn out to be well-founded, but the rape arrest gives reason to be skeptical. Somewhere in the background of this arson fire incident is the police killing of Jose Ramirez-Jimenez, the pepper-spray, batons and crowd-dispersal tactics at the Port of Olympia, the TESC Valentine’s Day concert incident, and recent killings of police officers in Tacoma and Seattle. To quote Stephen Stills and Buffalo Springfield: There’s something happening here, but what it is ain’t exactly clear.

In the foreground of all these disturbing events is the Annual Conference of the National Association of Citizen Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) that is set for September 20-23 in Seattle. The establishment of independent, effective citizen oversight might go a long way toward giving even “the least among us” some avenue to hold the police accountable to the community. Who monitors the police right now? From the City website:

On the management level, investigations of complaints about serious misconduct are conducted by a Professional Standards Lieutenant who works directly for the Chief of Police. Those investigations are subject to active review and oversight by an independent attorney (i.e., not a City employee). The attorney actually participates in the investigation process and has the authority to direct additional work, as needed, to assure that finished cases are thorough, complete and fair, and that the rights of all parties are respected and protected.

I don’t know if the family and friends of Jose Ramirez-Jimenez think a Professional Standards Lieutenant and an independent attorney are going to get the job done for them. Maybe it’s time we stop and figure out what’s going down. Visit <http://www.nacole.org/> for more information about effective police oversight.

State worker furloughs or state income tax?

Washington State’s budget has emerged as a secondary victim of the national economic downturn (you can’t call it a depression if the banks are bouncing back, right?) and the State’s immediate solution to the budget shortfall is to furlough State workers. Remember all the anti-tax fervor a few years ago when the State had a healthy rainy day fund? The theory in those days was that we were all being taxed too heavily, that the State did not need a rainy day fund. The truth is that the State does need a

rainy day fund and a reliable, progressive tax program. We also need to keep State workers on the job and basic social services in place, especially in a time of economic contraction. We currently rely primarily on State income tax for State revenue and guess what? Washington State is the most regressive state in the nation when it comes to how we fund state services. We’re the worst. We are Number 50! We are more regressive than Mississippi. Think about that a while.

Bill Gates Sr. (father of the Microsoft tycoon) and friends have gathered the signatures to get an initiative on the ballot to create a State income tax that could vault us past Mississippi in this regard. “Time to tax the Rich” says Mr. Gates, Sr. Initiative I-1098 is on the ballot for November. Mr. Gates asks “what sense does it make that poor people pay 17 percent of their income in sales taxes while millionaires pay 2.6 percent of their income in taxes?” It’s a good question. It’s going to be interesting watching this initiative battle. It’s always entertaining to see a millionaire ask to have his own tax bill raised.

Let them eat cake... and ride hybrid buses!

So, what else is on the ballot? Hey, here in Olympia on August 17 we get to vote to support public transit. Intercity Transit has a request for a sales tax increase of 2 tenths of a percent on the local sales tax to make up lost revenue and keep the public transportation option strong in Thurston County. There are a few things we ought to keep in mind with this request: Yes, it’s a sales tax, it’s regressive, but until we change the State’s fundraising format, sales tax is what we have. It’s 2 tenths of a percent raise. That’s a penny of tax on a five dollar purchase. Even in these hard times you can find that penny. All five of the jurisdictions (Olympia,

Lacey, Yelm, Tumwater and Thurston County) support the rate increase. And, the main thing to keep in mind is that we are fortunate to have one of the best public transportation systems in the country here in Olympia. It’s a model system. The transit system currently operates on biodiesel and Intercity is looking for ways to improve on that, by switching to hybrid vehicles. Intercity Transit started taking delivery on hybrid buses this month. WIP plans to tell you more about the hybrid buses in the September issue. For now, check out the pictures, park your car, jump on a bus and think about the future. Oh, and show your support for Intercity Transit on August 17.

Clean air, that’s the stuff

So, Intercity Transit is thinking hard and acting smart to reduce emissions, to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation in the South Sound, but over in Mason County the battle is joined over the proposed construction of two biomass incinerators. These biomass incinerators are the ugly offspring of the lobbying successful efforts of the timber industry’s efforts to include biomass in the list of “green” alternative energy projects eligible for hefty tax credits, but the science does not suggest there is anything particularly green about these projects. They are simply more application of an extractive industry’s political clout, more evidence that not everything with a green sheen is environmentally sound or reasonable. Hundreds of July issues of *Works in Progress* made it out to Mason County over the past month as local activists ramped up their opposition to the Shelton incinerators. Want to make your presence and opinion known? Activists are calling for demonstrations every Tuesday at noon at the Duke Energy Office on the Olympic Highway. Feel



VOTE YES FOR INTERCITY TRANSIT ON AUGUST 17

Read more about I.T.’s new hybrid buses in the September WIP



the call? Go to incineratorfreemasoncounty.org or www.nobiomassburn.org to get involved. Meanwhile The Evergreen State College’s study of biomass gasification continues to create heat in the Olympia area. Duff Badgley of No Biomass Burn has asserted that TESC has made a decision to proceed with construction, TESC denies that a decision has been made. Read that exchange elsewhere in this issue.

The protests come home

The Olympia Food Co-op Board recently made the decision to join the Olympia Boycott Divestment and Sanctions for an end to the occupation of Palestine. The Co-op follows the lead of the students at The Evergreen State College who voted to pass two resolutions, the first resolution calls on The Evergreen State College Foundation to divest from companies that profit from Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine and the second resolution calls on TESC to ban the use of Caterpillar, Inc. equipment from the campus. Here’s the website for more information: <http://www.olympiabds.org/>

Those of us old enough to remember the Apartheid of South Africa may also remember that the boycott and divestment movement that started on college campuses in the US played a part in ending Apartheid. This is how change happens. Thank you to the Oly Food Co-op for making this decision. Demonstrations began almost immediately at the Olympia Food Co-op as some folks in our community came out to protest the decision of the Food Co-op. My guess is that few of the people protesting the Co-op’s decision are in the habit of shopping at the Olympia Food Co-op. But First Amendment rights belong to all of us, even to some corporate entities according to the Supreme Court.

Plan C

In a surprise move, the Washington State Board of Pharmacy announced in mid July that it was drafting new rules that would allow pharmacists who object to Plan B emergency contraception to refuse to fill Plan B prescriptions. This controversy arose here in Olympia when pharmacists at Ralph’s Thriftway refused to fill Plan B prescriptions leading to boycotts and demonstrations at the local market and pharmacy. A court action has been winding through federal courts for several years over this dispute. Up until this surprise move by the Board, the pharmacists appeared to have been in a weak position. The trial that was set for July 26 has been postponed indefinitely as a result of this change. There’s something happening here.

STYLING · CUTS · COLOR · PERMS

FREE CONSULTATIONS · FREE BANG TRIMS

DEEP CONDITIONING · MANICURES · PEDICURES · MASSAGE · ASTROLOGY · TAROT

"We'll trim it, rub it, or read it"

JAMIE LEE & COMPANY

309 E. 4TH AVE.
OLYMPIA, WA 98501

360-786-6027
JAMIELEEANDCOMPANY.COM

KAOS patron business.

BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

Coffee Strong News

Coffee Strong is a GI coffeehouse outside of Ft. Lewis, WA. We offer drop in GI rights counseling as well as resources for free therapy, sexual assault advocacy, job mentoring, and much more.

“I Wouldn’t Wish War on my Worst Enemy” Benefits Coffee Strong

Jim Lommasson, noted photographer and artist, has assembled a very powerful book—although Jim is clear in pointing out that he is NOT the author, nor photographer, of this collection. “If I get in the way that could taint their [soldiers’] stories. The viewer/reader can follow the soldier through their eyes; not through the eyes of an interpreter.”

“I Wouldn’t Wish War on my Worst Enemy” consists of stories and photos of soldiers, now home from Iraq, and their family members. Succinct and chilling, the reader is transported into the war. “These are your children’s stories,” says Lommasson, directing his comments to current and future generations. You see what soldiers are doing to others, and how they in turn are affected by their actions. The photographs are well chosen, and this book is uniquely hand made. Each page reflects tremendous respect and care for the individuals who speak their truth.

The mother of one American Marine writes an apology to the Iraqi family killed by her son, and describes the deep suffering of her son, as well as her own.

Lommasson’s book was purchased by Yale University and by Reed College. He is busy assembling new copies for them, and will retain the original for display at future events. Jim donated \$700, sale of one book, to Coffee Strong, and the sale of the other to a Portland-based organization also serving returning soldiers.

You can review a few of the pages at <http://www.23sandy.com/bookpower/artists/lommasson.html>

Grants Received and Legendary Donors

Coffee Strong is delighted to report we received a \$10,000 grant from Ben & Jerry’s Foundation (helps provide GI Rights counseling and operating expenses} as well as a \$5,000 matching grant from the local family foundation, Lucky Seven.

“Manson and Frances Backus created “Lucky Seven” with the hope of giving back and improving the community where they lived and prospered...Since 1996, the Lucky Seven Foundation has provided grants to nonprofit organizations which have included...those that benefit health, welfare, education, arts, and the environment.“

We want to thank each of you who helped raise \$1,000 toward the ads Coffee Strong needs to run in local newspapers, aimed at soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

By the fall, nearly 18,000 men and women from various local units will have returned to JBLM (Fort Lewis-McChord) this year – the largest return since both wars started. Some 800 soldiers were scheduled to come home this holiday weekend.

Our goal to reach the attention of returning soldiers will be fulfilled by the Lucky Seven matching grant. \$2,500 donated this month will help us place full page ads, describing all the services available to soldiers through Coffee Strong.

The next \$2,500 match will help with one month’s operating expenses. (The cost to keep Coffee Strong open is about \$4,200 per month).

While it may sound like funds are flowing in abundantly, these donations will keep Coffee Strong open through this summer. This Fall our supporters will be called upon to assist the CS veterans with launching a full-time t-shirt business, which will provide transitional employment to a few veterans in 2011.

Veterans and soldiers receive referrals in a confidential setting for: GI Rights, including addressing racism, torture, domestic violence, stop-loss, addictions, PTSD, grieving, transitional employment and education coaching. We are grateful to provide critical, confidential services with your help.

Coffee Strong board and staff Extend Deepest Thanks to:

- The Abe Keller Peace Education Fund for their \$1,000 contribution to keeping services available to soldiers and vets. See their website at <http://www.abekellerpeacefund.org/>
- Our anonymous donor who contributed \$5,000, to whom we are very grateful for continued support (covers six weeks of operating expenses).
- Two anonymous members of Veterans For Peace who contributed \$1100 to launch the Coffee Card outreach campaign! (details below)
- Judy Piggot for her generous \$500 donation to the full-page media ad.

Ways to Help Coffee Strong

If you’re retired, or interested in an internship, the following positions and items are sought:

- An experienced fundraiser
- Baristas (we provide training!)
- Land for use in farming, or for transitional housing for veterans

If you are interested in helping with any of the above, send your response to contact@coffeestrong.org. 🔥

State Pharmacy Board backpedals on Plan B

Court issues order delaying pharmacy refusal trial pending outcome of Board of Pharmacy rulemaking

Planned Parenthood and Legal Voice

Seattle, WA – July 12, 2010

Today a federal court in Tacoma granted an order delaying the trial of the Stormans et al. v. Selecky et al. lawsuit, originally scheduled to begin in late July.

The lawsuit involves a challenge brought by two pharmacists and a pharmacy to a Washington State Board of Pharmacy (BOP) rule requiring all licensed pharmacies to fill patients’ prescriptions without discrimination or delay, regardless of an individual pharmacist’s personal beliefs about a particular medication.

On July 7, the pharmacy and pharmacists who sued the state over the rule, and the State (which had been defending the rule), suddenly joined together in a motion to stay the trial. This stay was proposed pending the outcome of a change to the existing pharmacy rules, initiated in recent weeks by the State Board of Pharmacy with no explanation as to why they were changing course. The Board of Pharmacy intends to change current policy so all pharmacies and pharmacists that oppose filling patients’ prescriptions for any reason - including personal beliefs - will be allowed to refuse service and instead refer the patient to a different pharmacy. Under the revisions the BOP seeks to make, even when the medication is in stock, available and sitting on a shelf behind the pharmacist, a pharmacy could require a customer to go to a different pharmacy. Women’s health advocates including Planned Parenthood and Legal Voice are surprised and outraged by this decision by the Board of Pharmacy.

“The Board of Pharmacy is wasting taxpayer dollars by blatantly backtracking on a rule that has already been subject to extensive public debate, has been upheld as constitutional and properly puts patients’ rights first,” said Elaine Rose, CEO, Planned Parenthood VOTES! Washington. “We are shocked the Board of Pharmacy is re-opening the rule and capitulating to a few extremist pharmacists who are putting their personal beliefs before their patients’ health care.”

Last year, the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit held that the pharmacy rule is a neutral and constitutional law, and serves a legitimate need to help ensure timely access to medications.

“It’s a sad day for Washingtonians when the agency that is supposed to protect patients and uphold high professional standards turns its back on them,” said Lisa M. Stone, Executive Director of Legal Voice. “We know the people of our state strongly believe they should

get their medications on-site, without interference, but the State seems to have forgotten that.”

The case was scheduled for trial on July 26. Planned Parenthood and Legal Voice will continue to defend the rule as a needed requirement to ensure that everyone in Washington has timely access to medications.

Background:

• The *Stormans et al v. Selecky et al.* case involves a challenge brought by two pharmacists and a pharmacy to Washington State Board of Pharmacy rules requiring all licensed pharmacies to fill patients’ prescriptions, regardless of an individual pharmacist’s personal beliefs about a particular medication. Legal Voice and PPGNW, with the help of Seattle law firms Perkins Coie and the Summit Law Group, represent seven Washington patients who intervened to defend the rules.

• In October of 2007, a federal court in Tacoma enjoined enforcement of the rules pending trial – but only as to pharmacies and pharmacists who refuse to dispense Plan B, the emergency contraceptive. The effect of this rule is to single out women’s reproductive healthcare for different – and worse – treatment.

• In July 2009, in a strongly-worded decision, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the injunction, finding that the trial court abused its discretion in enjoining the pharmacy rule. Immediately after the Ninth Circuit’s ruling, the pharmacists asked that court to reconsider its decision.

• In October 2009, in response to that request, the Ninth Circuit strongly reaffirmed its earlier decision, finding “the new rules do not aim to suppress, target, or single out in any way the practice of religion, but, rather, their objective was to increase access to all lawfully prescribed medications.” The court specifically recognized that the trial court “erred in finding that access to Plan B was not a problem, especially given that state officials have already made findings suggesting the opposite.”

Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington (PPVW) is an independent, nonprofit, non-partisan organization educating Washingtonians and policy-makers about reproductive health issues. PPVW lobbies and educates to advance Planned Parenthood’s mission and also engages in limited electoral activities.

Legal Voice is a nonprofit women’s rights legal organization that pursues justice for all women and girls in the Northwest through ground-breaking litigation, legislative advocacy, and educational tools to help individuals understand their rights.



The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic is open again!

The Clinic has a new office space in downtown Olympia.

Our open hours are:

Tuesdays	3 to 7 pm
Wednesdays	5 to 7 pm
Thursdays	3 to 7 pm

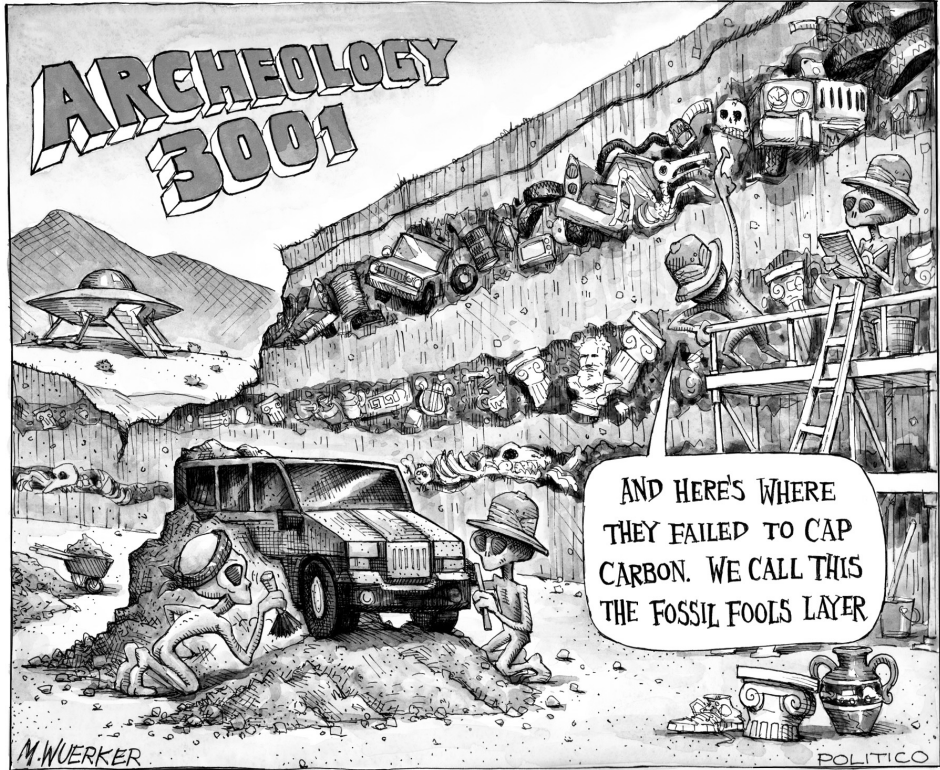
In the White Building on 4th Avenue (across from the Reef and above Last Word Books) in Room 212. The entrance is to the right of Last Word Books. Our office is up the stairs, down the hall, and to the right.

They are currently accepting applications for internships. Areas of focus include:

- Fundraising
- Donations and advertising
- Medicine
- Receptionist

Their wish list:

- Medicine-making supplies
- Clean, empty tincture bottles
- Organically cultivated or ethically wild-crafted herbs
- Books on herbal medicine, anatomy&physiology, herb/drug interactions, etc.



WIP HISTORY

Every month, WIP reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month, we’re reprinting two pieces about the recent history of the fight for easy access to birth control in Olympia. Hopefully, the Pharmacy Board’s recent reversal is not the end of this local struggle.

Who gets to decide what form of birth control a woman uses?

By Janet Blanding
June 2006

Who should be involved in deciding what form of birth control a woman uses? She should, certainly. Her partner? He has a role to play; he should be able to voice an opinion. Her doctor? A health care provider might share information as to what would be appropriate. Her pharmacist? Maybe, if there’s a drug interaction of which she should be aware. God? Sure, if you’re into that sort of thing. The owner of her local grocery store? I don’t think so.

The owner of Ralph’s Thriftway has taken the birth control choice of the women whom Ralph’s pharmacy serves into his own hands by refusing to stock Plan B emergency contraception, commonly known as “the morning after pill.” It should be noted that Plan B is not the same as RU486, mifepristone, sometimes called “the abortion pill.” RU486 causes an implanted embryo to abort. Plan B is a contraceptive taken after unprotected sex or condom or other birth control failure. It will not affect an existing pregnancy, but instead disrupts the processes of ovulation, fertilization and implantation, much in the same manner as simple birth control pills. It is a contraceptive, not an abortifacient.

Is refusing to stock a drug that prevents unwanted pregnancies legal? In Massachusetts earlier this year, Walmart was sued by three women who were denied prescribed emergency contraception because the colossal corporation refused to stock it. Walmart changed its national policy regarding Plan B after the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy investigated and found Walmart to be in violation of a state law that requires all pharmacies to stock commonly prescribed drugs. According to Jeff Smith of the Washington Board of Pharmacy, “we have the same rule here in Washington.” Washington Administrative Code 246.869.150 states that a “pharmacy must maintain at all times a representative assortment of drugs in order to meet the pharmaceutical needs of its patients.” Granted, a pharmacy in a nursing home may not need to stock Plan B, but until recently I was a frequent customer at Ralph’s, including the pharmacy there, and I can imagine a scenario in which Plan B might meet my pharmaceutical needs.

I believe that Ralph’s is in violation of WAC 246.869.150. The Board of Pharmacy has a complaint process, but no complaints against Ralph’s have yet been filed.

Currently, the Board of Pharmacy is considering the issue of “conscientious refusal,” whether an individual pharmacist has the legal right to refuse to fill a prescription he or she finds morally objectionable. But individual pharmacists at Ralph’s don’t have to grapple with such a question, since Ralph’s does not even stock, and has never stocked, emergency contraception. If the Board of Pharmacy decides against a pharmacist’s right to refusal, could a store policy of not stocking emergency contraception (EC) be a way to nevertheless deny a woman access to contraception? Steve Saxe, Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy in Washington says “the board is wrestling with this whole issue right now.”

In Olympia, Plan B is available at Rite Aid, Albertson’s, Kmart, Shopko, Target, Top Foods, Walgreen’s and Walmart with a doctor’s prescription. At Fred Meyer, Martin’s Southgate Drug, and Safeway, Plan B is available without a prescription. Since 1998, emergency contraception has been available without a prescription in certain pharmacies if a pharmacist present has been certified to initiate therapy under signed protocols with a prescriber. This means that if a condom breaks on Friday night, a woman could walk into Fred Meyer on Saturday morning, talk to a pharmacist, and get emergency contraception immediately,

without having consulted a doctor. After all, Plan B is so safe, an FDA advisory panel recommended it for over the counter status, only to be politically derailed by pro-life extremists.

Why is it that most of the pharmacies in Olympia don’t participate in this program which allows EC to be dispensed without a prescription? One pharmacy tech complained that it was “too time consuming.” Another pharmacist agreed, saying that the intake procedure “requires 20-30 minutes counseling time uninterrupted in a confidential place.” Not surprisingly, the pharmacies that sell Plan B to women who walk in without a prescription seem to sell a lot more of the product than pharmacies that can’t. At a pharmacy that participates in the protocol, a pharmacist who wished to remain anonymous estimated that they dispense Plan B “about once a day.” At K-mart, however, which doesn’t participate in the protocol, pharmacist Lon Lloyd says, “in the last 5 years we haven’t filled a single prescription for Plan B.”

So does it make sense from a business point of view for those pharmacies that don’t sell much Plan B to keep it in stock? Jennifer Allen of Planned Parenthood points out that “it’s good business to look out for the best interests of your customers, and that means timely access to medication.” Emergency contraception is particularly time-sensitive, as it is most effective when

The clock is ticking when a woman needs Emergency Contraception, and she may be particularly stressed and perhaps embarrassed if she has trouble obtaining it. She shouldn’t have to waste time locating an unfamiliar pharmacy.

taken as soon as possible after unprotected sex. Could a pharmacy like Ralph’s lose money if it stocks Plan B, which has a shelf life of four years, but doesn’t sell it? Not likely. Carol Cox of Barr Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Plan B, states that “the company accepts returns of Plan B unopened, outdated packages.” While it is possible that there isn’t an enormous demand for Plan B at Ralph’s, Ralph’s has nothing to lose by stocking it. If Ralph’s pharmacy dispenses enough Plan B to prevent one or two unwanted pregnancies a year, wouldn’t it have been worth it?

Every pharmacy should stock emergency contraception. It is a commonly prescribed drug, classified by the World Health Organization as “an essential drug.” The clock is ticking when a woman needs EC, and she may be particularly stressed and perhaps embarrassed if she has trouble obtaining it. She shouldn’t have to waste time locating an unfamiliar pharmacy. She needs to get EC quickly to avoid an unwanted pregnancy; the Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that as many as 51,000 abortions were prevented by EC use in 2000. Isn’t reducing the need for abortions a goal we can all share?

I feel a sense of personal betrayal over this issue because I have spent so much money at Ralph’s and Bayview. Once I got past the inspirational book section, I used to feel good about shopping at these stores. They are locally owned, and they make contributions to OFS (as well as other community organizations) when I make purchases there. Although I buy most of my groceries at the Co-op, there are some things the Co-op doesn’t carry that I’ve just got to have. Where should I go instead? I don’t like shopping at huge chains like Safeway or Albertson’s. Top Foods is smaller (17 stores, all in Washington), but it’s a long drive, and gas is expensive. My hope is that Ralph’s will change its policy and start stocking Plan B, either as a result of legal challenge, or public pressure. 🔥

Ralph’s attorneys: Not locally grown

Stormans bring the legal flood with Alliance Defense Fund

By Janet Blanding
September 2007

On July 26, 2006, the owners of local grocery store/pharmacy Ralph’s Thriftway filed a lawsuit against the state of Washington’s Board of Pharmacy and Human Rights Commission in federal court. The complaint, filed on behalf of Stormans, Inc. and two pharmacists who are not employees of Ralph’s, contends that newly adopted state administrative codes that require pharmacies to fill prescriptions without discrimination violate the “Plaintiffs’ unalienable right of conscience on matters of religious and moral conviction free of government coercion.”

Despite Ralph’s insistence that it is a community-minded, locally-oriented store, the Alliance Defense Fund, an Arizona-based organization, is behind this lawsuit. The complaint is signed by two attorneys from Seattle law firm Ellis, Li & McKinstry, as well as Benjamin Bull, Byron Babione, and Amy Smith of the Alliance Defense Fund, with an address in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Alliance Defense Fund is a conservative Christian non-profit organization with a stated purpose of “defending the right to hear and speak the Truth [sic] through strategy, training, funding, and litigation.” Bill O’Reilly, conservative “culture warrior” and ADF booster, has encouraged listeners of his radio show to donate money to the ADF, calling it the “antidote to the ACLU.” According to the Washington Post, the ADF handles litigation itself, as well as underwriting legal fights for such organizations as the American Center for Law & Justice, which was founded by Pat Robertson, and Jerry Falwell’s Liberty Counsel.

One of the founders of the Alliance Defense Fund is James Dobson, of “Focus on the Family” notoriety. Focus on the Family promotes “family values” by advocating for school prayer, corporal punishment, and abstinence-only education, while opposing reproductive choice, equal rights for homosexuals, pornography, and “militant feminism.” The political agenda of the Alliance Defense Fund reflects much the same goals as Focus on the Family. The primary issues of the ADF, as enumerated on its website, are “Sanctity of Life,” “Traditional Family,” and “Religious Freedom.” The “Sanctity of Life” information page states that the ADF provides “case funding, strategy and coordination, attorney training, and litigation” to oppose abortion and public funding of abortion, to support parental consent laws, and to defend pharmacists’ “right of conscience.”

Regarding “Traditional Family,” the Alliance Defense Fund claims to have “fought numerous attacks on marriage and family values, including efforts ... to allow those engaging in homosexual behavior to have preference to adopt children and be foster parents, to allow those engaging in homosexual behavior to serve openly in the military, expose children to explicit sex education materials contrary to parental approval, [and] to deny parents the right to raise their children before God as they see fit.”

The leadership of the ADF is rabidly homophobic. Current president and general counsel Alan Sears is co-author of the book The Homosexual Agenda: Exposing the Principal Threat to Religious Freedom Today (Broadman & Holman, 2003). This book offers its readers insights such as “The efforts of homosexual activists to convince Americans to tolerate homosexual behavior tramples religious freedom and leaves a trail of broken bodies in the dust,” and asks the penetrating question “How far down the road have homosexual activists taken us toward their goal of unbridled sexual behavior?” Gay rights and marriage equality advocacy is seen as hindering personal religious rights, community religious rights, and as “a threat to the existence of the traditional family.”

The Alliance Defense Fund, in a press release dated Aug. 14 describes how Kevin Stormans chose not to stock Plan B in his pharmacy, “when his research showed that the pill can prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg.” No further details are given about Kevin Stormans’ ventures into medical research, which is unfortunate; it is puzzling that his scientific conclusions are so at odds with other research findings about the mechanism of action of levonorgestrel, the active ingredient in Plan B. The press release goes on to state that in response to Ralph’s decision not to stock Plan B, “A few activists began picketing his store, and even went so far as to file complaints with the Washington Board of Pharmacy.” The truth is that more than 350 people pledged to boycott Ralph’s until they stock Plan B, and many other community members are boycotting without ever having pledged. In July 2006, more than 200 picketers turned out during the first days of the boycott. As of late August 2007, 20 women have filed complaints against Ralph’s with the Washington State Department of Health – all of these complaints are still actively being investigated or undergoing legal review.

Then again, who can blame the ADF for getting it wrong? They’re in Arizona; they probably haven’t driven by and seen the picketers outside Ralph’s. While Ralph’s is looking outside the community for help with its legal case, there is plenty of home-grown, local opposition to its policy of not stocking all forms of birth control. As boycotter Diana Arens said, “I like to shop locally and support community businesses, but I think it’s important to look at the alliances those businesses have made. When they don’t resonate with our community’s values of social justice, I shop elsewhere.” 🔥



360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

► **BOYCOTT**, continued from page 1
rusalem, and the Golan Heights, with the acceptance of “minor” and “mutual” adjustments to the borders under UN Security Council Resolution 242.

The Palestinian BDS call also requires Israel to “respect[], protect[] and promote[] the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.” Protesters claim that allowing Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland (from which they were expelled by Israel) would mean the destruction of Israel. This is akin to white people who feared that the end of slavery in the US would mean the destruction of the South, or Afrikaners who feared that the end of apartheid meant the death of South Africa. However, respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of refugees to return home is simply what it says. Article 11 of UN General Assembly Resolution 194 also acknowledges that compensation for refugees is a viable alternative for those choosing not to return home.

Israel to this day refuses to accept any responsibility for the 1947-8 expulsion of Palestinians from what is now Israel -- either blaming the Palestinians for deciding to leave, justifying the act as a reward for conquest, or in effect stating “finders keepers, losers weepers.” Despite attempts by Israel to delegitimize Palestinian refugee rights, international law remains clear on the issue.

The final stipulation of the Palestinian BDS call requires Israel to “recognize[] the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality.” Such a requirement would not be possible if the expectation was that Israel cease to exist.

There is nothing in the Co-op’s boycott policy nor in international law that calls on Israel to “cease[] to exist.” Opposition to the stated requirements is simply opposition to existing international law and basic human rights, while reframing the message to imply that abiding by international law and human rights standards is somehow harmful to Israel, with no acknowledgement of how Israel’s noncompliance is oppressive to Palestinians.

Why didn’t the Co-op board consult with its membership before honoring the boycott?

The Co-op has established policy guidelines and protocols for observing boycotts. The Israel boycott fit those guidelines. *No previous boycott has ever been presented to Co-op members prior*

to implementation. In fact, the original request for a boycott was made by a Co-op working member in 2008.

If the Co-op had addressed the potential Israel boycott to the entire membership prior to implementation, it would have been instituting a double standard—one in which Israel’s actions are given greater license than those of China, Norway, or even Colorado.

The Co-op makes many decisions without conferring with the entire membership. However, those decisions are based

A boycott is initiated to create change. It is not a tool of rejection, retribution, punishment, or disgust. When workers go on strike, it is not because they hate their employers and want to kill them; it is because they seek improvement in their working conditions. A boycott works the same way.

on clear policy guidelines. For instance, the Co-op has product selection guidelines that relate to a product’s packaging. According to these guidelines, “[t]he Co-op will not carry products whose retail packaging is deemed exploitive or oppressive. Such determination may be made by the department manager, the merchandising team or the staff as a whole.” Items have been removed from the shelves when they were determined to violate the packaging guidelines and done without informing the entire membership.

But that’s a very undemocratic way of running a Co-op, isn’t it?

One could make that argument. Obviously, not all Co-op decisions can be put to a member-wide vote. The Co-op boycott policy has been posted on the Co-op’s website for years, and its previous boycotts have not drawn the type of criticism that the Israel boycott has evoked. The reaction to the Israel boycott enforces the concept that Israel is a country beyond reproach, or at least one that must be treated differently from all others.

Many people protesting the board’s decision have decided to institute a boycott against the Co-op. There are also threats to boycott local businesses that advertise in the Co-op newsletter. On one hand, it demonstrates that these protesters have faith in the power of boycotts. On the other hand, it demonstrates a confusion of priorities. While these boycotters decry the board’s “undemocratic” boycott policy, they have sidestepped the democratic option enshrined in the Co-op’s policies.

That is, opponents to the boycott can overrule board decisions (or other Co-op decisions) through a member-initiated ballot. They still have this democratic option within the Co-op’s guidelines. Yet their first reaction was to institute a boycott rather than take the most direct and democratic option available.

(If only it were that easy with Israel.)
The Co-op is singling out Israel! Why doesn’t the Co-op boycott China?

The Co-op does have a longstanding boycott on China. This has not deterred people from assuming that the Co-op “singles out Israel.” Some people, having learned that the Co-op has observed boycotts on China and Norway, then resort to arguing, “Why does the Co-op *only* boycott China, Norway, and Israel?”

The fact is that any criticism of Israel is perceived as singling out Israel. For some people, any criticism of Israel feels amplified. Even Amnesty International, which reports on human rights abuses around the world, has been accused of singling out Israel. (For example, see the article “Amnesty Is Not Out To Get Israel” in the June 19, 2005, *Jerusalem Post*.)

The “singling out” argument is both meaningless and circular. In order to address China’s abuses, the Co-op had to have singled out China. In order to address Colorado’s anti-gay legislation, the Co-op had to have singled out Colorado.

In order to fight apartheid in the 1980s, one had to single out South Africa.

Moreover, if the Co-op did not have a boycott on China, the Co-op’s boycott policy made it possible for any member to request the boycott. Rather than complaining about a supposed lack of boycott on China, one could have requested it.

Still, isn’t it hypocritical for us to be boycotting Israel when our own government has committed tons of atrocities? Why don’t we boycott the US?

As stated, boycott is a tactic, not a principle. The above questions assume that a boycott is a way to express hatred of or retribution for past deeds. Rather, the boycott is to produce change. Boycotting the US for its past atrocities is not asking the US to change.

As for boycotting the US for its current crimes, it is difficult to boycott the US while living inside the US, and thus tactically unsound. At the same time, Israeli activists are calling for an international boycott on Israel. They themselves cannot participate in the boycott because they live in Israel, but they challenge their own government in ways that are only possible for Israeli citizens to do. They hope that an international boycott will buttress the work that they do from the inside. This is no different than the Arizonans who are asking for a boycott of Arizona.

For a boycott to achieve its goals, it requires a campaign. Even if the Co-op were to successfully boycott the US, it would mean nothing if there weren’t a whole campaign to back it up with a unified message and broad support. An Israel boycott is worthwhile because it is backed by an international movement. Trade unions, pension funds, European supermarkets, celebrities, and others are participating in the boycott. The Israeli government is aware of the campaign (including the Co-op boycott) and its goals.

Boycotting Israel does not mean that one cannot protest the United States for change. Boycott should be employed where the tactic seems possible to affect change. It doesn’t mean you boycott everything that you disagree with. Living in the United States gives us the privilege to protest our government’s actions in many ways. Boycotting the US from within the US is generally not one of those ways.

The question implies that you have to address all the problems in the world, or else you’re a hypocrite. The only way to not be a hypocrite then is to do nothing at all. Thus the argument promotes apathy as the morally superior option.

Different protests require different tactics. Employing one tactic for one cause does not commit one to employing the same tactic for *all* causes. Nor does it preclude employing different tactics for different causes.

Finally, we must acknowledge that the United States is instrumental in keeping the Palestine/Israel conflict going. The US provides massive aid, diplomatic cover, and political encouragement to Israel to continue its abuses and forestall a just settlement. Addressing Israel’s occupation is resisting our own government’s complicity. For decades, people inside the US have been working for change through demonstrations, lobbying, mobilizing, education, and direct action. This work continues, but it should not preclude further action in the form of boycotts. All these tactics work together.

But Israel is not the worst human rights violator in the world. Why don’t you go after [insert China or some Arab or African country here]?

This question implies that it is hypocritical to work for change anywhere unless one works for change everywhere.

Or else, it implies that only the absolute worst violations in the world should ever be addressed.

The problem is that the argument can be applied to just about any activism, not just activism on Israel/Palestine. That is, one can level these arguments against doing anything about Arizona, or about immigration in general, or about civil rights, queer rights, environmental justice, racism, sexism, apartheid, AIDS, poverty, Iraq, Afghanistan, health care, etc.

No matter what cause you engage in, there is always some other cause that could be deemed “more worthwhile.” Someone can always point to a greater atrocity or more dire situation elsewhere.

In other words, the question implies that you have to address all the problems in the world, or else you’re a hypocrite. The only way to not be a hypocrite then is to do nothing at all. Thus the argument promotes apathy as the morally superior option.

For some reason, this question is often posed to say that a true activist’s priority is some random Arab or African country. Ironically, the person who poses this question is never engaged in working for change in the region that they cite. Thus the Arab or African atrocity is used only to deflect criticism of Israel. That in itself is exploitive.

The question before deciding to engage in a cause is not “Is it the worst thing in the world?” Rather, the questions should be:

1. Is it bad enough to do something about?
 2. Is it a problem that you can do something about?
- And bonus points for this question:
3. Is it a problem that you are already complicit in?

Was South African apartheid the worst problem in the world? No. Was it worth fighting against? Yes.

Is the situation in Palestine comparable to or worse than apartheid? If you ask prominent South Africans who suffered under apartheid, such as Desmond Tutu, Willie Madisha, Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Fatima Hassan, and Mondli Makhanya—or even if you ask the entire Congress of South African Trade Unions—the answer is yes.

If South African apartheid was bad enough to warrant boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS), and if the situation in Palestine is comparable to or worse than apartheid, then isn’t BDS a viable nonviolent option for peace and justice in Palestine/Israel?

It’s hypocritical to criticize Israel’s expulsion of the Palestinians since the US did the same to the Indians here. (A variation of this argument is expressed as, “Are you going to give up your home for the Native Americans? I didn’t think so!”)

This argument is flawed in several ways:

1. It is a cynical and offensive exploitation of the genocide of the indigenous peoples of this land, evoking it only to excuse the expulsion of another people.
2. It attempts to justify the expulsion of Palestinians by claiming that ethnic cleansing is not something new and was practiced here. Thus it excuses ethnic cleansing everywhere. Although ethnic cleansing is not new, that does not make it an excusable “tradition.”
3. It implies that the Native population here simply wants to take over everyone’s homes, and it does nothing to address the real issues of oppression that Native people currently face.
4. The expulsion of the Palestinians began in 1947 *and continues to this day*. Refusing to address our own complicity in the *ongoing* expulsion of Palestinians from their lands, for fear of being called a hypocrite, does nothing to help Palestinians nor Native peoples here.
5. As with related arguments, this argument of supposed hypocrisy can

Statements from members of Olympia BDS

What follows are two of the presentations given by Olympia BDS organizers to the Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors, as part of their proposal to the Board that they join the global boycott of Israel.

by Rochelle Gause

Rachel Corrie and I organized the doves in the Procession of the Species as a creative response to the war in Afghanistan. Her death opened my eyes to a reality on the ground in Palestine that I continue to carry with me each day. I funneled my grief into helping to build the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project because it was one of Rachel's goals, and because I wanted to understand what had happened. I have traveled to Gaza twice since her death, most recently in 2005 - 2006 where I spent 4 months living in the West Bank and Gaza. If I could take each of you there for a week we would not even need to have this conversation; honoring the boycott would seem like the least we could do.

The situation in occupied Palestine is increasingly urgent. You can read it in the headlines daily. Yesterday a Palestinian mother of four became one of thousands to come home and find her house demolished. Thousands of activists are tortured and detained for years without charges. There are women dying while giving birth at checkpoints trying to get to the hospital. Ancient farmland is being stolen by illegal settlements and the wall. Families in Gaza are imprisoned in their own homes, unable to get basic supplies because of the siege.

Each year I think it can't possibly get worse, and then Israeli military operations like Cast Lead in Jan 2008 occur leaving 1,400 Palestinians dead including hundreds of children. During that attack, I awoke in Olympia to hear an NPR report of the bombing of the UN school where I knew friends of mine were taking refuge. I am terrified for their future, for their children, for all Palestinians. And for all Israelis because I believe in, as Desmond Tutu has described, "a future in which both the violence of the occupier and the resulting violent resistance of the occupied come to an end, and where one people need not rule over another, engendering suffering, humiliation, and retaliation. True peace must be anchored in justice and an unwavering commitment to universal rights for all humans..." Boycott is the nonviolent tactic that we can wield to help create that future.

Sometimes our privilege, because the effects of our actions are so far away,

leads to a false sense that we have an *option* to engage in this situation. We *are* engaged, from the US Apache that I watched drop bombs in the middle of the day in the neighborhood I was living in in Gaza, to the \$940,000 that Olympia alone gives to Israel each year to keep this reality alive. Choosing to not honor this boycott is an action; it is complicity in the human rights abuses and the breaching of international law. There is no opting out of this situation.

I love the Olympia Food Co-op and I appreciate all you do to sustain an institution I believe in on so many levels and so often rave about as an example of the future we need to create. At my work I build free gardens for low-income families, and so my work shares the mission of good food for all people. Our work to build a better food system in the US is directly linked to so many struggles from workers' and immigrants' rights to the fight to dismantle racism in our community. The Co-op's mission makes this clear, striving to encourage social and economic justice. Our food movements must be active participants in the global movement for food sovereignty. And we have to stand with the people of all countries, such as Palestine, whose food security is threatened by military occupation.

In Gaza I saw firsthand how the occupation destroys the values that the co-op stands for. How can you have a local economy when only 10 items are allowed in your borders? When your land is being stolen? What does access to food for all look like when the amount of food let in is determined by a chart created by Israel that lays out the amount of calories each Gazan needs based on age and gender to survive without starving? Dov Weisglass, an adviser to Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, said this about the siege on Gaza: "The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger." Can we seriously deny the call from Palestinians to pull two items when their shelves are bare?

In memory of the thousands of Palestinians who have lost their lives at the hands of our F-16s, Apaches, bulldozers and bullets, and in memory of our own Rachel Corrie who died to bring light to this situation, please honor the boycott. Thanks! 🔥

by Noah Sochet

Hi, I'm Noah and I'm a longtime working member—a cashier at the Eastside store on Thursday evenings. I, like everyone else in the room, am here because I care deeply about the Co-op. I'm also here because I've been following this process since I first dropped a comment card into the suggestion box almost two years ago.

I want to speak as a working member for a moment. I'm a busy guy, I've got a

I often hear folks worry that they don't want to become active on these issues because they don't want to offend Jews. I only wish that they could see that the truly offensive piece there is this notion that Jews are a monolithic group that speak with one voice and that support what Israel is doing in Palestine.

lot on my plate, but I've made the decision to volunteer at the Co-op, and to continue for the last five years, like most working members, because I've identified the Co-op as an organization in my community that deserves the most effective kind of support that I can offer: my time. The reason that the Co-op enjoys that kind of support, from me and from many, many others, is that the Co-op works in so many ways, large and small, for social and economic justice.

There's a boycott on. It's been called by an overwhelming catalog of organizations that represent all parts of Palestinian Civil Society. It's been called locally by a wide group of Palestinians, Jews, and other folks in Olympia and across the region and the country. It's been called for internationally by South Africans who remember the effect that boycott had on apartheid, as well as by

Desmond Tutu, Alice Walker, and Naomi Klein, and the list goes on and on and on. The call came in July of 2005, and has been repeated and repeated in the years since. And still, there are Israeli goods on the shelves of our beloved Co-op.

I know that these processes take time, and that only a fool expects speed from the Co-op decision making process. I've waited, as progressive groups and businesses and schools – and Evergreen – sign on to boycott and divestment, waiting for the Co-op to rectify this failure to keep with the values that we all hold so dear.

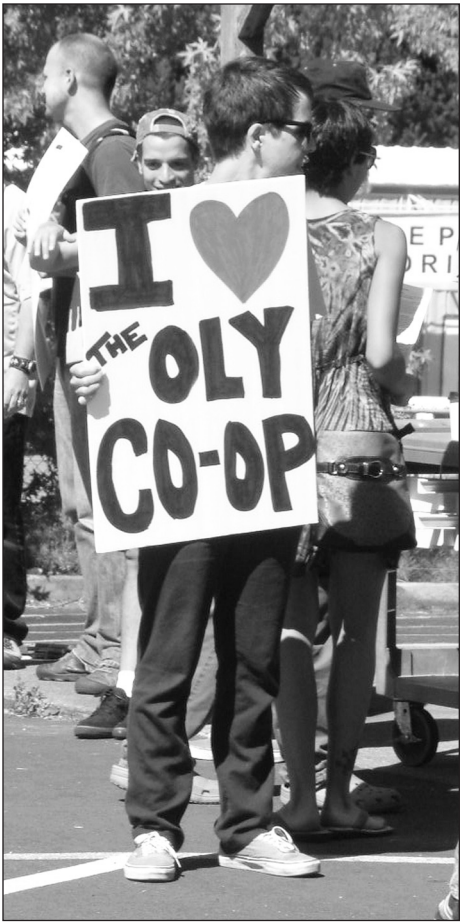
And let's not forget – we're not discussing today whether or not the Co-op will get involved in this issue. The Co-op is—and has been—occupying, frankly, an abhorrent position on this issue, and the position becomes more and more entrenched each day that the boycott fails to go into effect.

I want to say a little something about anti-semitism.

I'm Jewish, and Jewish voices are nearly always given extra weight on this issue, and while I'd prefer that the voices that were given such care were those of Palestinians, if it needs to be a Jewish voice to be heard, so be it: This is a Jewish voice, calling for boycott, and I add my voice to

► PROPOSAL, continued on page 18

Below right: The Food Co-op's decision to boycott Israeli products has inspired daily demonstrations, with people from both sides of the debate picketing outside the east side store. Below left: Members of Olympia's Jewish community protesting against the Co-op boycott. Right: Members of the Olympia community show support for their Co-op.



Looking up to the Global South

Left movements and governments provide us with positive models

by Brendan Funtek

A remarkable summary introduction about Latin American societal advancements surfaced in print recently that deserves attention. Published in the July/August issue of *Monthly Review*, Marta Harnecker, Chilean author of *Rebuilding the Left*, concisely covered the ideological and practical problems the people of Latin America faced in a post-Soviet collapse and what approaches led to solutions. As you read this lengthy excerpt, try to imagine if we took this approach in the United States:

"I shall limit myself here to a brief mention of some of those deviations: (a) vanguardism, verticalism, and authoritarianism [through which the direction of the movement, the duties of the leadership, the platform of struggle, were all resolved by orders from the party, thereby trickling down to the social movement in question, which was thus prevented from participating in the planning of those things in its greatest interest]; (b) theoryism and dogmatism, which led to strategism [great strategic goals were planned, e.g., the struggle for national liberation and socialism, but without any concrete analysis of the historical conditions]; and (c) a distorted "subjectivism" [reification of the historical subject] in analyzing reality—inappropriate strategies and tactics were used, based on an inability to see the historical uniqueness of the revolutionary social subject. (This included neglecting the struggles of ethnic and cultural movements and of popular revolutionary Christianity.) Other errors included thinking of revolution as an attack on power by a militant minority, which would then use the state to solve the people's problems, not putting a high enough value on democracy. This even reached the point where a distinction was made between revolutionary forces and democratic forces, and the adjective 'democratic' was applied to social-democratic allies, as if revolutionary forces weren't democratic.

"In the decade prior to the defeat of Soviet socialism, leftists began to overcome these mistakes. I should like to mention here two other factors that also had an influence on the left's maturing process. The first of these was the pedagogical vision of the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire. This engendered an important popular education movement in several of our countries, which clashed with the classic conception of left parties as a 'vanguard,' current at the time. These parties were wont to consider that they owned the truth. The second were feminist ideas that emphasized respect for difference and rejected authoritarianism.

"The first to assimilate these ideas and visions were the Central American politico-military movements. The Sandinista Revolution demonstrated the freshness of this new way of looking at things by the way it operated politically on its way to victory, appointing radical priests as ministers in the new revolutionary government, and by its political pluralism. A communist Salvadoran guerrilla comandante, Jorge Schafik Handal, was the first to insist that the new Latin American revolutionary subject could not be just the working class, that there were new revolutionary social subjects, and that, therefore, the revolutionary

process could not be led by communists alone—that all these new subjects had to be included. A Guatemalan guerrilla group, the Guerrilla Army of the Poor, was the first political organization to include indigenous people and to consider them to be the fundamental driving force of the revolution.

"Thus, people began to understand that the new political organization had to be committed to society and to be immersed in the popular sectors. It had to overcome the tendency to homogenize the social base where it operates, by engaging in unity in diversity and respect for ethnic, cultural, gender, and other differences. They also began to understand that this respect for difference implied changing the language used, adapting the content and varying the form for different subjects, and that today, in the information and image era, audiovisual language is extremely important.

"They decided to go beyond hegemonism [that is, imposing leadership from above, taking over positions and

The left has also realized that, in order to help people to be, and to feel that they are, protagonists, it must move from the style of a verticalist military leader to one of a popular educator, able to release the power of all the wisdom the people have stored up.

giving orders to the rest], and beyond the steamroller politics that impose lines and actions by force. They began to understand that it was a question of winning hegemony, that is, that wider and ever wider sectors of society accept as their own the policies of the given political organization.

"The left matured, as well, in its relationship with the popular movements when it understood that they must not be treated simply as transmission belts for party decisions but must have increasing autonomy, so they can develop their own agendas for struggle. The left also began to understand that its role is to coordinate various agendas and not to elaborate one single agenda from above. It has come to see that its role is to give orientation, to facilitate, and to march together with, but not to replace, movements, and that a verticalist attitude that squashes people's initiative must be eliminated.

It now understands that it has to learn to listen, to make correct diagnoses of the people's state of mind, and to listen carefully to the solutions suggested by the people. The left has also realized that, in order to help people to be, and to feel that they are, protagonists, it must move from the style of a verticalist military leader to one of a popular educator, able to release the power of all the wisdom the people have stored up.

"In reaching the conclusion to abandon the workerist approach, which is only concerned with the working class, the left came to understand that the new political instrument must respect the plurality of the new subject and take on the defense of all discriminated social sectors: women, indigenous peoples, black people, young people, children, pensioners, people of diverse sexual orientations, people with disabilities, and others. The left realized that the point is not to recruit for one's political



organization. Rather than clasping to its bosom all the legitimate representatives of those who struggle for emancipation, the organization should be a body that coordinates all their different lives into a single project.

"Finally, the left understood that democracy is one of the most beloved banners of the people, and that the struggle for democracy cannot be separated from the struggle for socialism because it is only under socialism that democracy can develop fully.

"If we keep this history in mind, I think we can better comprehend what has happened in Latin America in recent decades." [Bracket space written by *Monthly Review* editors.]

To echo Harnecker's sentiment, we should attempt to comprehend what is happening in 21st Century Latin America. It might appear grandiose to broaden our focus toward every single country in Central and South America yet the signs of a stifling neoliberal policy that appropriated essential state functions during the 20th Century are evident everywhere. Most countries south of the US still live under the oppressive debt imposed by US and European government and banking institutions. However, each country's narrative about how the people and government responded to this crippling blow continues to unpredictably fluctuate.

Honduras was notoriously known as a haven for mercenaries and missionaries in the brutal counter-revolutionary wars

With its resource wealth realized as a source of economic self-reliance instead of a prerequisite for exploitation, Venezuela has actively worked to assist fellow countries and communities seeking alternatives to neoliberal mandates.

against self-determination movements in Nicaragua (the Sandinistas) and El Salvador (the FMLN.) Yet when recent president Manuel Zelaya did not adequately comply with US and neoliberal interests in neglecting the Hondurans' democratic rights, the coup (that forced him down a well-worn path of other inadequate subordinates) was met with a people's resistance that continues despite the murderous violence imposed and designed by the current government to terrify.

Panama's casual association as a US military outpost is due to being geographically burdened with a man-made canal essential to trade (i.e. 'US interests'.) But those who stopped following developments within the country after the notorious, awkward ouster of Manuel Noriega might be surprised to learn Panama no longer possesses a US base and underwent a general strike in July to protest an anti-union law.

Honduras and Panama are indicative of this broader Latin America societal transformation that has advanced to a revolutionary level in Venezuela. With its resource wealth realized as a source of economic self-reliance instead of a prerequisite for exploitation, Venezuela has actively worked to assist fellow countries and communities seeking alternatives to neoliberal mandates, an approach diplomatically referred to as multi-polar instead of concerned with only national interests.

"The multi-polarity requires hard work," Venezuelan diplomat Samira Amndan said in June at the Third Annual Che Guevara Conference in Vancouver, BC. "A politics of international integration of diverse peoples and governments so we can break all the bonds of dependency from the centers of power. That's why we must diversify the international relations that in our case for 100 years were very tightly subordinated to the North American interests."

The complexity and vulnerability that accompanies these objectives is often overlooked here in the U.S. as people fixate on Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez. No doubt fundamental to Venezuela's narrative, the 11-year democratically elected leader is helping coordinate the Bolivarian Revolution -- a movement to empower and form collaboratively autonomous self-sufficiency for the peoples and states victimized by global trade forces -- along with tempering a hostile upper class within his country. This latter hindrance is worthwhile to explore.

Unlike the Cuban revolution in 1959 that reactively created a self-imposed exile community of its wealthy citizens intent on winning the war abroad to get their mansions and land back, the progressive movement in Venezuela is forced to deal with a recalcitrant upper (and middle) class that constantly reminds Chavez and his administrative and public supporters that this will not be 'another Cuba' i.e. they're not

going anywhere this time. This presence fosters a banal legislative reality within a fractured government that Chavez respectfully acknowledges in a democratic interest. Many of the social reforms involving wealth and land redistribution to benefit the large poor population are stunted by this legislative impasse.

"The [government] ministries are still slow in the sense of projects and information. There are still people in Venezuela who do not have a commitment with the revolution, with the change," Amndan said. "In many ways the problem is a cultural one because corruption is still here in our society. But in these last 10 years of Bolivarian revolution, we have had many, many changes and we are still working on educating people on a new way of life.

"We have to face the opposition. It's not easy to change the bureaucratic structures but I can assure you that every

► **LATIN AMERICA**, continued on page 15

Biomass incinerators at Evergreen?

THE DEBATE CONTINUES

Statement from No Biomass Burn

by Duff Badgley

July 17, 2010

Evergreen State College has decided to build its highly polluting campus biomass incinerator and is fast-tracking plans to fund it. Toxic emissions in five key pollutants would jump compared to the current Evergreen natural gas boiler.

College officials said July 16 that only details remain to be worked out for the planned \$7-14M burner. An Evergreen engineer admitted the same day that carbon dioxide emissions would likely double with the new incinerator and four other dangerous pollutants would surge by 20%.

Evergreen has claimed it is building the incinerator to reduce college carbon emissions. Evergreen has also claimed other pollutants from the new gasification incinerator would be no worse than from its current natural gas boiler. The boiler provides heat for campus buildings.

After college officials announced Friday they were already identifying funding sources to build the burner, Scott Morgan, Evergreen Sustainability Coordinator, and Jason Wettstein, college Media Director, refused to deny the college has already made the decision to build the controversial incinerator. Morgan said items like securing biomass for fuel remain undecided.

Richard Davis, College Engineer of Evergreen's Facilities Services, admitted carbon dioxide emissions from the new incinerator would be "high." Davis refused to rebut information showing CO2 emissions would double compared to the current gas boiler. Davis also said toxic emissions would jump by 20% for particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

"It is an outrage Evergreen wants to build this incinerator that would threaten human lives in Olympia and the region," said Duff Badgley of No Biomass Burn. "It's also an outrage Evergreen says it will build the incinerator to reduce carbon emissions. They are now admitting carbon emissions would double, stoking climate change."

"We will fight this incinerator every inch of the way," Badgley said. "We have already contacted student activists and Olympia activists. We are planning street protests in Olympia and protests on campus. We have notified our attorney, Dave Bricklin, one of the top environmental attorneys in the state. Evergreen has an enormous, public fight on their hands if they go ahead with plans for this incinerator."

Summary of toxic pollutants surging with new Evergreen biomass incinerator:

1. CO2 would double. CO2 is the primary greenhouse gas (GHG) causing climate change. CO2 also exacerbates medical problems caused by other pollutants emitted by biomass incineration. Evergreen claims it is building the incinerator as part of its goal to be carbon neutral by 2020. To achieve that goal, Evergreen also participates in carbon offsets, a highly suspect scheme that has been called a "subterfuge" by leading climate scientist James Hansen. The college buys "Renewable Energy Credits" (RECs) it claims will somehow "offset" carbon emissions from campus use of electricity.
2. PM would jump by 20%. PM is a lethal pollutant produced in large amounts by combustion of biomass and fossil fuels. The American Lung Association State of the Air Report-2008: "First and foremost, short-term exposure to particle pollution can kill. Deaths can occur on the very day

that particle levels are high." PM is also associated with asthma, heart disease, and cancer.

3. NOx and VOCs would jump by 20%. NOx and VOCs are two ingredients of ground-level ozone that causes asthma in children and exacerbates other cardiac and pulmonary disease problems.
4. CO would jump by 20%. CO is an odorless, colorless, and toxic gas. Low levels of CO exposure can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, and disorientation. High levels of CO can kill.

For more information, contact Duff Badgley of No Biomass Burn at 206.283.0621 or duff@nobiomassburn.org.

Evergreen responds

by Jason Wettstein and Scott Morgan

Mr. Badgley's "release" regarding our project ("Evergreen decides...") is inaccurate and misleading. Though it's implied, there were no interviews. The Evergreen State College staff cited did not make the comments or provide the statistics attributed to them and the assertions Mr. Badgley makes range from distortion to sensationalized fiction. Along the way, he also takes a swipe at Evergreen students for taxing themselves to sup-

port renewable energy (wind power) and threatens legal action against the college for researching (and implementing if appropriate) biomass gasification as an alternative to fossil fuels.

Let's back up a bit to clarify. Mr. Badgley did participate in a July 16 Evergreen planning meeting convened to validate and define key questions that remain to be answered about the college's biomass gasification proposal. One clear message at that meeting was that the college has not yet made a decision to build a biomass gasification facility. It was further noted that the college does not yet have definitive data about potential emissions (though initial research indicates that the proposed gasification technology appears to have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions). Mr. Badgley apparently missed these statements, but added some of his own.

What are the facts?

- Earlier research related to Evergreen's Climate Action Plan (for carbon neutrality by 2020) indicated

that biomass gasification holds promise as an environmentally responsible alternative to fossil fuels for heating the campus.

- The college is not alone in this belief. Some of the nation's other "greenest" colleges are pursuing this path. In addition, major environmental advocates and researchers, including the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council, believe that responsible use of biomass can play an important role in our transition away from fossil fuels.
- The college is studying the technology and science to validate or reject these initial indications.
- The college will only move ahead with the project if it satisfies several key criteria including emissions levels.
- Funding sources are being explored (and even applied for in some cases) now, but the project will not proceed if it doesn't meet the critical criteria.
- No decisions have been made.
- Evergreen remains committed to sustainability and carbon reduction. That requires exploration of new approaches. We need to stop pulling geologically sequestered carbon from the ground and dumping it into our air. We must stop burning fossil fuels. Given the urgency of global warming, complacency just doesn't cut it.

For accurate information about the exploration of biomass gasification at Evergreen, please read the FAQ and related materials at www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/biomassgasificationfaq.htm.

Mr. Badgley would have you believe

that the answers related to biomass energy are simple: all biomass approaches are bad and continued burning of fossil fuels is better.

It is more complex than that. Evergreen is taking the time to look more deeply at the science available, establish principles and criteria, and evaluate the relative impacts of biomass gasification compared to continued use of fossil fuels.

For instance, while Mr. Badgley would look only at emissions at the "stack," serious inquiries (including Evergreen's), also consider implications of leveraging carbon already in the natural carbon cycle instead of adding carbon from fossil fuels. They would also include assessment of naturally occurring greenhouse gas emissions (CO2 and methane) that would be produced by woody biomass left to decay on the forest floor, and they would examine implications for speed and quantity of carbon sequestration with current and improved forest practices, and "upstream" considerations related to harvest and transportation of biomass fuel (and fossil fuel alternatives).

A blanket condemnation of "biomass incinerators" demonstrates either an incomplete understanding of the complexities of the topic, or intentional distortion of facts.

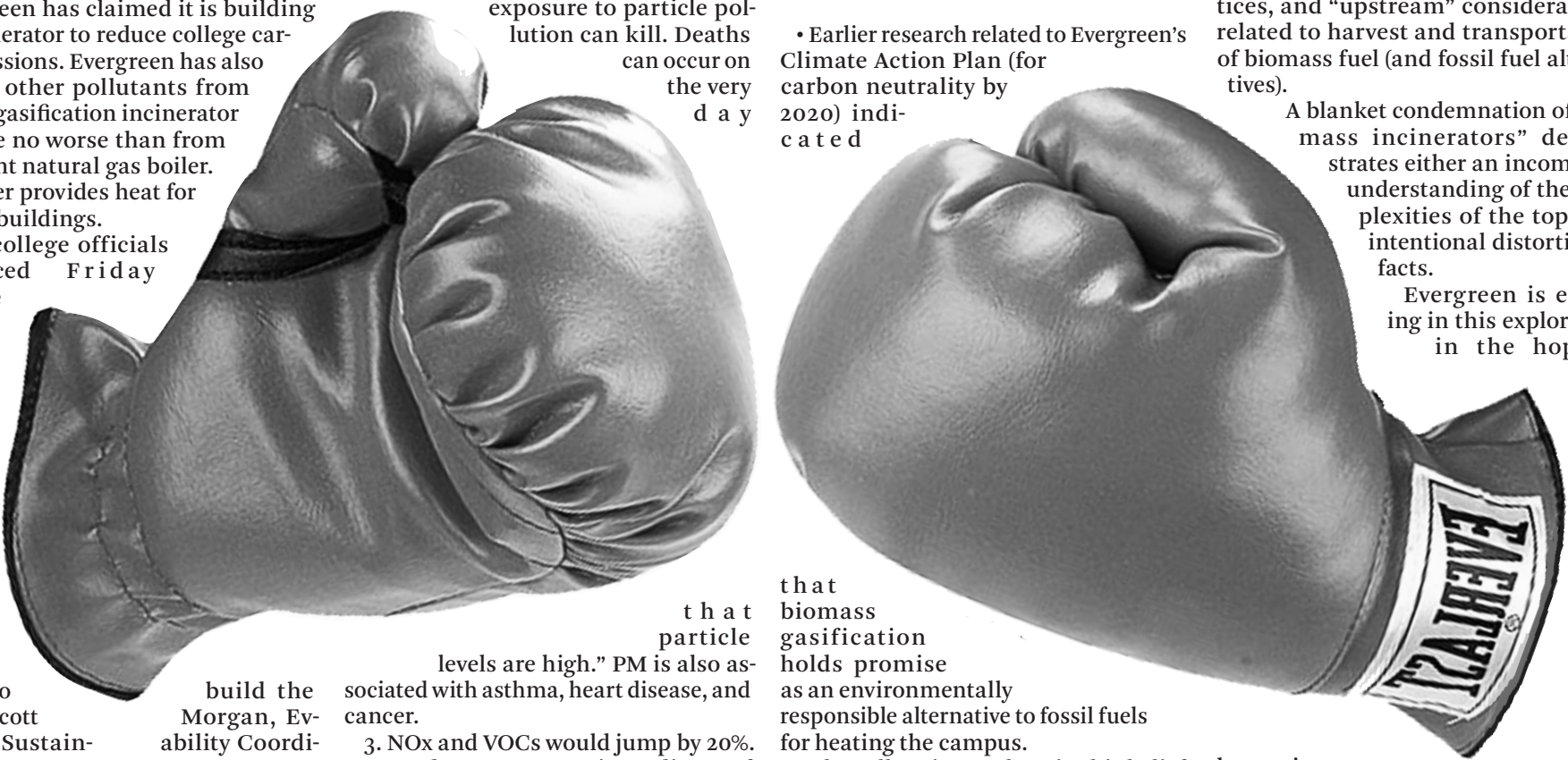
Evergreen is engaging in this exploration in the hope of becoming more sustainable in its operations, not less. This effort is an exploration of a possible means to achieve climate neutrality. Regardless of what we find in terms of merit or lack of merit in the idea of a biomass gasification facility, the college values research, study and critical analysis. We're putting those values into action with this feasibility study. Now is the time to think creatively, not just accept fossil fuels as the best option.

Evergreen is committed to being a leader in sustainability. If a rigorous analysis indicates that biomass gasification is not a more sustainable option, it won't be pursued. Our job now is to gather the information needed to make our decisions.

We encourage you to follow this project on our Web site: www.evergreen.edu/sustainability.

For more information, read <http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/docs/CAP/CAP%20Final%20082809.pdf>, or go to www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/biomassgasificationfaq.htm. 🔥

Badgley was provided with the Evergreen response, and told us his initial release stands. He has suggested both sides hold an open debate in the near future.





MARRIAGE OF MONEY, DRUGS, AND MEXICO

Since President Nixon declared war on drugs 40 years ago, an estimated \$500 billion has been spent trying to eliminate production, trade, and consumption of illicit drugs in the U.S. – *Rolling Stone*

2008: An estimated 20.1 million Americans aged 12 or older had used an illicit drug in the last 30 days. The overall rate of current illicit drug has remained stable since 2002 (8.3 percent). – ONDCP

2008: 19.4% of 12th-graders reported use of marijuana or hashish within the previous month. – Office of National Drug Control Policy

“The use of most drugs waxes and wanes...depending on factors largely outside the government’s control.” – RAND

Percentages of users who become dependent:

- 23 percent for heroin
- 17 percent for cocaine
- 9 percent for marijuana

Dependent users are most likely to require health care services because of their drug use and are the primary source of drug market revenues.

Treating heavy drug users would be more effective in reducing drug consumption and drug-related crime and other consequences; it also does not have the ill effects of enforcement, e.g., racial disparities in who bears enforcement’s burden. RAND

Even though Obama has announced a significant increase in 2011 funding for prevention and treatment, the bulk of the federal drug control budget has gone and will continue to go to enforcement.

But while prevention and treatment do more to reduce drug consumption and drug-related crime, “even model programs appear to be cost-effective in no small part because they are relatively cheap, not because they eliminate more than a modest fraction of use.” – RAND

Someone is arrested in the U.S. for violating a drug law every 17 seconds.

“Over 100 drug raids happen every day in America (with too many of them involving the immediate shooting of family pets).” – Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)

2008: 82.3% of all drug arrests were for possession only, and 44.3% of drug arrests were for possession of marijuana. – FBI

There are currently over 2,297,400 people incarcerated in state and federal prisons. About 25 percent are sentenced for drug law violations. – Bureau of Justice Statistics

“Any law disobeyed by more than 100 million Americans, the number who’ve tried marijuana at least once, is bad public policy.” – Norm Stamper, LEAP

December 2008: LEAP commissioned a report by a Harvard University economist that determined legalizing and regulating drugs would inject \$77 billion a year into the struggling U.S. economy.

A Canadian study released this last spring concluded “that stepping up the enforcement of drug laws is unlikely to reduce gang violence tied to drugs or stop the circulation of drugs in communities.” The consequences of such action would likely be more “gun violence and murders” due to the “massive profits” made in illicit drugs markets by organized crime.

In 2009, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy announced the Obama administration would move toward treating drug addiction as a health problem and not use the term “War on Drugs,” as that would be counter-productive.

Later that year the Obama administration announced its strategy to curb the flow of narcotics, money, and weapons across the U.S./Mexico border: increase funding to law enforcement, improve Mexico’s judicial system, “combat corruption among US law enforcement and elected officials,” better coordinate intelligence, and improve non-lethal weapons technology. – Associated Press

Since 2006 Mexican President Felipe Calderón has waged a war using 45,000 military troops in addition to state and federal police against the drug cartels.

In 2007, President Bush and President Calderón signed the Merida Initiative, in which the U.S. promised to spend \$1.5 billion to sup-

port the Mexican drug war over a three-year period.

The Obama administration has pledged to continue to support of Mexico’s drug war.

23,000 have been killed in the Mexican Drug War and the towns along the south side of the border have become battlegrounds.

There have also been allegations that the Mexican police and federal troops have committed serious human rights violations such as “illegal arrests, secret and prolonged detention, torture, rape, extrajudicial execution, and fabrication of evidence.” – Wikipedia

In 2010 the number of Mexicans living in poverty grew by an additional 6 million to 53 million, almost half the nation’s population. An estimated 15 million will be living in extreme poverty by end of the year. – Center for Economics and Business Research, Tecnológico de Monterrey University

The U.S./Mexico border is 1,969 miles long with 640 miles of either barrier fence or vehicle barriers and more than seventeen thousand U.S. border patrol agents to guard it.

The illegal drug industry in Mexico employs hundreds of thousands of people. – CNN

February: Obama’s drug czar announced a 5.2 percent funding increase for drug war enforcement for 2011.

April 2010: Because Feds have seized so much marijuana coming over the border, an average of 1.5 tons per day, “federal prosecutors in Arizona until recently declined to press charges against marijuana smugglers caught with less than 500 pounds.” – AP

May 25, 2010 President Obama authorized deployment of 1,200 National Guard troops to the U.S./Mexico border to assist with border protection and enforcement activities. Arizona’s elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans, said it wasn’t enough. – The Arizona Republic, ABC News

Kidnapping has become another source of income for crime organizations in Mexico and along the U.S.-Mexico border. No one is secure. Working class families have paid ransoms for as little as \$500, and tourists have been abducted for their cash and credit cards. – IPS-Inter Press Service, CBS Evening News, LA Times

Phoenix has had over a thousand kidnappings since 2007. Most of them only involve those connected to drugs and human smuggling. Some have resulted “in torture and death.” – ABC News

“Mexican drug cartels have built a network of dealers in 231 American cities from coast to coast, taking in about \$39 billion in sales annually.” – The Vancouver Sun

March 2010: Wachovia paid \$160 million in fines and penalties and admitted it helped move money for Mexican drug smugglers by “failing” to monitor and report suspected money laundering by narcotics traffickers from 2004 to 2007. According to the DEA, “drug traffickers have gone to U.S. banks to cleanse their dirty cash” for the last twenty years.” – The Vancouver Sun

The cartels also employ “legions of individuals”-referred to as Smurfs-to convert small amounts of “dollars into pesos or to make deposits in local banks. After that, cartels wire the money to a multinational bank. – Bloomberg

“They can use an army of people like Smurfs and go through \$1 million before lunchtime.” – Jerry Robinette, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

In May, NPR reported it collected allegations from dozens of sources, including US and Mexican media, Mexican police officials, politicians, and academics, that the Sinaloa Cartel has infiltrated and corrupted the Mexican federal government and military by bribery and other means. It also alleged that Sinaloa was colluding with the government to destroy other cartels and protect itself and its billionaire leader, Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán Loera.

A Mexican general once tried to catch the elusive drug lord, but “every time he got close, his own men would tip off Chapo.” – NPR

Huge areas of Guatemalan rainforest are now under the control of Mexican drug cartels that have vast cattle ranches there to launder profits and safely operate away from the Mexico military. – AP

What is the Vienna Declaration?

The Vienna Declaration is a statement seeking to improve community health and safety by calling for the incorporation of scientific evidence into illicit drug policies. The declaration is the official declaration of the XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010) held in Vienna, Austria from July 18 to 23, 2010. The declaration was drafted by a team of international experts and initiated by several of the world’s leading HIV and drug policy scientific bodies: International AIDS Society, the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy (ICSDP). It was prepared through an extensive consultative process involving global leaders in medicine, public policy and public health.

Why We Need It

The world needs a new approach to dealing with illicit drugs. The primary international response to the health and social harms posed by drug use has involved a global “war on drugs” aimed at reducing the availability and use of illegal drugs through drug law enforcement.

Policy Today: A Proven Failure

In June 1998, the UN General Assembly hosted a Special Session on illegal drugs under the slogan “A drug free world – We can do it.” The session set out international drug control strategies and law enforcement goals for the subsequent decade in which it was hoped the world could be made “drug free.”

However, it is now clear that drug law enforcement has not achieved its stated objectives. In fact, illicit drugs remain readily available worldwide, and the previous three decades have seen drug prices continue to fall while drug purity continues to increase. In addition, the over-reliance on drug law enforcement has resulted in overwhelmingly negative health and social consequences. This includes the enrichment of organized crime and associated violence, the spread of HIV among injection drug users, as well as other devastating harms as outlined in the Vienna Declaration.

The negative effects of drug control efforts in the United States led to a unanimous resolution at the 2007 annual United States Conference of Mayors that stated that the War on Drugs has failed. The resolution called for a “New Bottom Line” in drug policy, and demanded a public health approach focused on reducing the negative consequences associated with drug abuse while ensuring that policies do not exacerbate problems or create new social problems of their own.

The Need for Change

The need for evidence-based public health approaches is clear, yet drug law enforcement continues to be the dominant policy approach at the expense of all others, including public health interventions that have been proven effective. For instance, methadone maintenance therapy remains illegal in Russia and other parts of the world where HIV is spreading most rapidly among heroin users. This ban persists despite the fact that methadone is on the World Health Organization’s list of Essential Medicines and is recognized as one of the most effective treatments for heroin addiction.

The status quo cannot be tolerated any longer: illicit drug policy must be based on scientific evidence to protect and improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities around the world.

To sign the declaration, or for more information, go to: www.viennadeclaration.com/

The Vienna Declaration

The criminalisation of illicit drug users is fuelling the HIV epidemic and has resulted in overwhelmingly negative health and social consequences. A full policy reorientation is needed.

In response to the health and social harms of illegal drugs, a large international drug prohibition regime has been developed under the umbrella of the United Nations. Decades of research provide a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the global “War on Drugs” and, as thousands of individuals gather in Vienna at the XVIII International AIDS Conference, the international scientific community calls for an acknowledgement of the limits and harms of drug prohibition, and for drug policy reform to remove barriers to effective HIV prevention, treatment and care.

The evidence that law enforcement has failed to prevent the availability of illegal drugs, in communities where there is demand, is now unambiguous. Over the last several decades, national and international drug surveillance systems have demonstrated a general pattern of falling drug prices and increasing drug purity—despite massive investments in drug law enforcement.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that increasing the ferocity of law enforcement meaningfully reduces the prevalence of drug use. The data also clearly demonstrate that the number of countries in which people inject illegal drugs is growing, with women and children becoming increasingly affected. Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, injection drug use accounts for approximately one in three new cases of HIV. In some areas where HIV is spreading most rapidly, such as Eastern Europe and Central Asia, HIV prevalence can be as high as 70% among people who inject drugs, and in some areas more than 80% of all HIV cases are among this group.

In the context of overwhelming evidence that drug law enforcement has failed to achieve its stated objectives, it is important that its harmful consequences be acknowledged and addressed. These consequences include but are not limited to:

- HIV epidemics fuelled by the criminalisation of people who use illicit drugs and by prohibitions on the provision of sterile needles and opioid substitution treatment.
- HIV outbreaks among incarcerated and institutionalised drug users as a result of punitive laws and policies and a lack of HIV prevention services in these settings.
- The undermining of public health systems when law enforcement drives drug users away from prevention and care services and into environments where the risk of infectious disease transmission (e.g., HIV, hepatitis C & B, and tuberculosis) and other harms is increased.
- A crisis in criminal justice systems as a result of record incarceration rates in a number of nations. This has negatively affected the social functioning of entire communities. While racial disparities in incarceration rates for drug offences are evident in countries all over the world, the impact has been particularly severe in the US, where approximately one in nine African-American males in the age group 20 to 34 is incarcerated on any given day, primarily as a result of drug law enforcement.
- Stigma towards people who use illicit drugs, which reinforces the political popularity of criminalising drug users and undermines HIV prevention and other health promotion efforts.
- Severe human rights violations, including torture, forced labour, inhuman and degrading treatment, and execution of drug offenders in a number of

countries.

- A massive illicit market worth an estimated annual value of US\$320 billion. These profits remain entirely outside the control of government. They fuel crime, violence and corruption in countless urban communities and have destabilised entire countries, such as Colombia, Mexico and Afghanistan.
 - Billions of tax dollars wasted on a “War on Drugs” approach to drug control that does not achieve its stated objectives and, instead, directly or indirectly contributes to the above harms.
- Unfortunately, evidence of the failure of drug prohibition to achieve its stat-

A massive illicit market fuels crime, violence and corruption in countless urban communities and has destabilised entire countries, such as Colombia, Mexico and Afghanistan.

ed goals, as well as the severe negative consequences of these policies, is often denied by those with vested interests in maintaining the status quo. This has created confusion among the public and has cost countless lives. Governments and international organisations have ethical and legal obligations to respond to this crisis and must seek to enact alternative evidence-based strategies that can effectively reduce the harms of drugs without creating harms of their own. We, the undersigned, call on governments and international organisations, including the United Nations, to:

- Undertake a transparent review of the effectiveness of current drug policies.
- Implement and evaluate a science-

based public health approach to address the individual and community harms stemming from illicit drug use.

- Decriminalise drug users, scale up evidence-based drug dependence treatment options and abolish ineffective compulsory drug treatment centres that violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Unequivocally endorse and scale up funding for the implementation of the comprehensive package of HIV interventions spelled out in the WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS Target Setting Guide.
- Meaningfully involve members of the affected community in developing, monitoring and implementing services and policies that affect their lives.

We further call upon the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to urgently implement measures to ensure that the United Nations system—including the International Narcotics Control Board—speaks with one voice to support the decriminalisation of drug users and the implementation of evidence-based approaches to drug control.

Basing drug policies on scientific evidence will not eliminate drug use or the problems stemming from drug injecting. However, reorienting drug policies towards evidence-based approaches that respect, protect and fulfill human rights has the potential to reduce harms deriving from current policies and would allow for the redirection of the vast financial resources towards where they are needed most: implementing and evaluating evidence-based prevention, regulatory, treatment and harm reduction interventions. 🔥

Statement in support of the Vienna Declaration

by Norm Stamper, former
Seattle Chief of Police

Over the last 34 years I have dedicated myself “to protect and serve” the people of my community. But after more than three decades in law enforcement, I can say with certainty that the war on drugs is achieving precisely the opposite effect.

I support the Vienna Declaration because the global War on Drugs has produced staggering rates of death, disease, crime, and corruption.

When you think about the war on drugs and its effects, I urge you to think about the real casualties:

- The tens of thousands of otherwise innocent people who find themselves incarcerated for possessing or using small amounts of illicit drugs;
- The drug traffickers and innocent bystanders alike, brazenly shot dead on city streets around the world, be it in Seattle or Ciudad Juarez;
- The members of law enforcement – police, judges, politicians, etc. – assassinated for doing their jobs and courageously responding to the call of duty;
- The people who used drugs, and who became HIV-positive because, due to stigma and criminalization, were unable to get the health services that could have prevented infection; and
- The taxpayers, who ultimately must pay the bill for federal, state, and local cops, courts, prosecutors, prisons, probation, parole, and pee-in-the-bottle programs.

I support the Vienna Declaration because I believe that drug policy should



prevent these casualties, not cause them.

As a former police chief and a current member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, I advocate for drug policies that are based on proven, effective means of dealing with the harms associated with currently illicit drugs, that respect community health and safety, and that actually serve and protect.

In my experience, drug addiction is not a path that people willingly choose. Those who suffer from addiction need and deserve access to services that can keep them and their loved ones safe and point them in the direction of recovery. Let’s stop this ideological war that cannot be won. Let’s instead adopt strategies that research has proven to be effective, that come without dire unintended consequences.

It’s time for a reorientation of drug policy. I encourage you to join me in signing the Vienna Declaration. 🔥

Haneen Zoabi: The largest threat to democracy is Zionism

Interview with censured member of Knesset

by Max Blumenthal,
Electronic Intifada

On 13 July, the Israeli Parliament — the Knesset — voted by a large margin to strip the parliamentary privileges of Haneen Zoabi, a member of the Palestinian Israeli party Balad. The measure was a punishment for Zoabi’s participation in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. As described in the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, during the raging debate, Member of Knesset (MK) Anasatassia Michaeli rushed toward Zoabi and handed her a mock Iranian passport with Zoabi’s photo on it. “Ms. Zoabi, I take your loyalty to Iran seriously and I suggest you contact Ahmadinejad and ask him to give you an Iranian diplomatic passport that will assist you with all your diplomatic incitement tours, because your Israeli passport will be revoked this evening,” said Michaeli, who is a member of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman’s explicitly anti-Arab Yisrael Beiteinu party.

The debate over revoking Zoabi’s parliamentary privileges was nearly as raucous as her appearance at the Knesset speaker’s podium in the immediate wake of the Flotilla massacre. While Zoabi attempted to relate her experience on the Mavi Marmara, where she coaxed Israeli commandoes to stop shooting and beating passengers, Knesset members from a broad array of parties leapt from their chairs to shout her down. “Go to Gaza, traitor!” shouted MK Miri Regev of Likud. “One week in Gaza as a 38-year-old single woman and we’ll see how they treat you!” barked Yohanan Plesner of the supposedly centrist Kadima party. Finally, Moshe Mutz Matalon of Yisrael Beiteinu lamented that the Israeli commandoes “left only nine floating voters.”

I met Zoabi at her office in the bustling center of Lower Nazareth on 12 June. While preparing a spread of biscuits and chocolates for me, she told me that a reporter from Nablus who met her earlier in the day had been detained at a checkpoint and had her laptop seized. Zoabi was convinced that the Shin Bet (Israel’s General Security Service) was monitoring her communications and movements as it does with many Balad Party leaders. Despite the tense climate and violent threats against her, she spoke without restraint about her experience on the Mavi Marmara, the predicament of Palestinian members of the Knesset, and what she considered the fascist direction of Israeli society.

Max Blumenthal: Were you surprised to be greeted with such hostility when you returned to the Knesset after the flotilla incident?

Hanin Zoabi: I was not so surprised. I expected to be called traitor, to be asked, “Where are your knives?” Or to be told, “You are the one who killed them!” But they shouted at me without any political argument and such shallowness. I thought, this couldn’t be a parliament, these are just gangsters. If I gave them guns, they would shoot me. I said the soldiers on the flotilla treated me more respectfully than them. At least after the soldiers killed nine people they tried to ask me for help.

MB: What does the attack on you in Knesset say about Israeli democracy?

HZ: Israel has a general atmosphere of a fascist state that has no critical sense even of its image in the world. It used to be sensitive to its image of democracy. [Knesset Speaker Reuven] Rivlin wants a liberal state and wants others to believe Israel is a democracy. But listen to what they are saying in the Knesset: that we should only pay attention to what we want to; it’s not important to pay attention



Haneen Zoabi, member of Israel’s Knesset, and survivor of the Gaza aid flotilla in May

tion to the goyim [non-Jewish peoples]. We must believe we are the victim as if victimhood is an ideology.

MB: Are you concerned about threats to your physical safety?

HZ: This is a dangerous time and it is dangerous for Jamal [Zehalka] and others in Balad. I am worried but what worries me more is not the personal threats but the long term political effect of this campaign because it represents a delegitimization of our party and our political platform.

MB: What about the planned measure in the Knesset to strip you of parliamentary privileges?

HZ: The three parliamentary sanctions are nothing -- I mean nothing -- because I can still use my civic passport.

MB: When you were attacked in the Knesset, I was reminded of an incident in 1949, when the first Arab member of Knesset, Tawfiq Toubi, took to the floor to denounce Israeli army brutality against Palestinian villagers living under military rule. Jewish members of the Knesset went crazy just as they did against you, but Toubi was defended by one of Israel’s most prominent cultural figures, the socialist poet Nathan Alterman. Did any prominent Israelis speak

Despite the tense climate and violent threats against her, she spoke without restraint about her experience on the Mavi Marmara, the predicament of Palestinian members of the Knesset, and what she considered the fascist direction of Israeli society.

up in your defense, and if not, why not?

HZ: Hardly anyone spoke up for me. Jamal [Zehalka] said the Knesset is the worst we’ve ever had. The guards and the workers who’ve been around the Knesset for 30 years said it’s never been this racist before. I think when you have a government led by the likes of [Foreign Minister] Avigdor Lieberman it means that the extremists are not the margins of the Knesset, they are the mainstream. Those who shouted at me were from Kadima, not from the extreme right. Even [the traditionally left-wing party] Meretz is becoming very center. And because of this it has lost power.

[Knesset Speaker] Rivlin was more afraid of hurting the image of the Knesset than of my rights being violated. There are no limits and the famous slogan of Lieberman is now the slogan of everyone: “Citizenship depends on loyalty.” He of course means loyalty in a fascist sense. Even when [Interior Minister] Eli Yishai asked to revoke my citizenship there was only one article in the Israeli media saying that this was crazy.

What kind of state is this? I read just one article about this!

[Yedioth Aharanot columnist] Amnon Levy was the only one who defended me. He said what’s happening is so absurd, you should thank Haneen that she is serving in this Zionist Knesset. You should thank the Palestinians for participating in our game.

MB: Is the anti-Arab atmosphere inside Israel a new phenomenon or the acceleration of a process than began some time ago?

HZ: This is not a new process, and it didn’t begin after the flotilla. It really began after the second intifada, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Israelis went to demonstrations not to rally about internal issues but to support the intifada. This was a clear message for Israelis that the state had failed to create the model of the new “Israeli Arab.” This is what the state was trying to do, trying to create an Israeli Arab, someone who was not 100 percent Israeli because we were not Jews but of course not 100 percent Arab either. We were told we could preserve our language and our culture but not our historical memory,

If Israel wants to delete these margins so my vision can no longer be legitimate in the Israeli scene, I think a totally different game will develop between us and the state. In this way, the state is pushing us to a crisis.

our culture, or our identity except on an emotional, romantic level. Essentially we couldn’t be Palestinian.

The second intifada was the turning point. It told Israel that it might control the schools, our history and the media but they couldn’t stop us from asserting our identity. This led directly to the declaration of Yuval Diskin, the Shin Bet director, who said in 2007, we will fight against any political activity that doesn’t recognize Israel as a Jewish state even if the activities are conducted openly and democratically. He clearly was referring to Balad when he said this. By the way, no Israeli paper was shocked by his statement.

MB: The founder of the Balad Party, Azmi Bishara, was forced into exile after being accused of spying for Hezbollah. Ameer Makhouh, the Palestinian civil society leader in Israel, has been placed under administrative detention and is facing similar accusations. Omer Said and many other activists are under investigation by the Shin Bet. What is the government trying to accomplish by its crackdown?

HZ: They are trying to establish borders on our political identity and say that we cannot have relations with the broad-

er Arab world. They want to redefine the margins of democracy to exclude any political program that calls for full equality. We are calling for equality without Zionism. This is what the Balad Party says. The fact is, to demand full civic and national equality is actually to demand the end of Zionism. So we don’t hate Zionism. Zionism hates democracy.

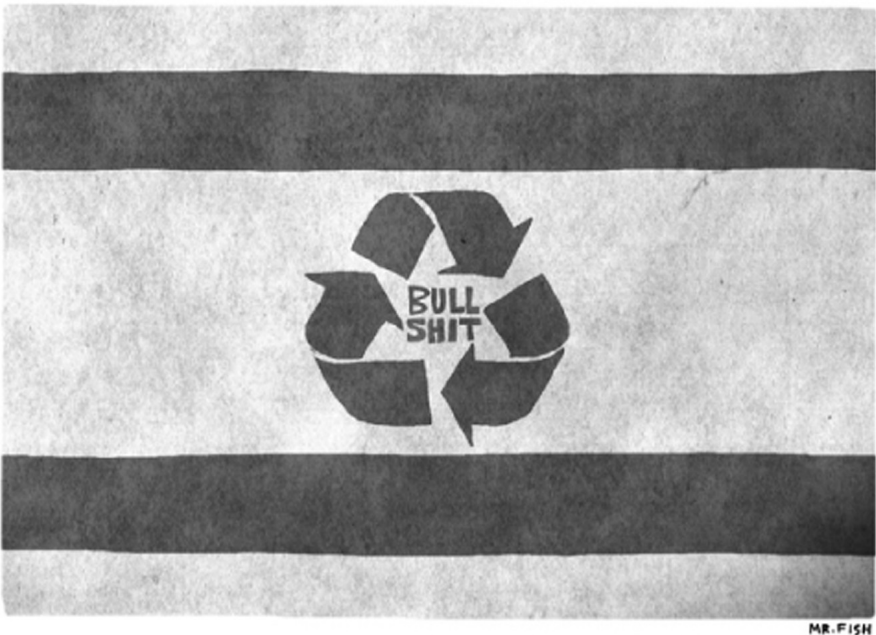
If the state continues in the direction it is going it will actually change the rules of the game. Balad says there are clear margins of democracy. We believe in democratic values and the system and we will utilize these margins of democracy in order to suggest our vision of full equality. If Israel wants to delete these margins so my vision can no longer be legitimate in the Israeli scene, I think a totally different game will develop between us and the state. In this way, the state is pushing us to a crisis. If they disqualify Balad then no Arab party would enter the Knesset and this would provoke a huge crisis. Arabs without a parliamentary role would result in a different kind of relationship between us and the state. This would be the end of democracy. But we know this is what a Jewish state will lead to -- the end of democracy is an inevitable outcome.

MB: How did your prominence after the flotilla impact the situation of Palestinians in Israel?

HZ: It is possible that the flotilla was the beginning of a new historical moment. Israel enjoys keeping us [Palestinians in Israel] out of the agenda of the world. They oppressed us behind the scenes just as they conducted the Nakba behind the scenes. They continued to limit our identity and the world didn’t treat us as part of the Palestinian issue because it believed that Israel was a democracy and we were only part of it. The world only looked at the siege of Gaza. So what the Knesset did by attacking me was they showed the world who they really are. And if the world starts to pay attention, especially the part of the world that doesn’t traditionally support the Palestinians and believes Israel should be a real democracy, I hope they see from the flotilla and its implications that Israel has a deep structural problem, not a problem of policies. The problem is not an extremist government. The problem is that the largest threat to Zionism is democracy. This is the issue.

Max Blumenthal is an award-winning journalist and bestselling author working in Israel-Palestine. His articles and video documentaries have appeared in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Daily Beast, The Nation, The Huffington Post, Salon.com, Al-Jazeera English and many other publications. He is a writing fellow for the Nation Institute. His book, Republican Gomorrah: Inside The Movement That Shattered The Party, is a New York Times and Los Angeles Times best-seller.

<http://electronicintifada.net/> 🔥



Witch-hunt begins in Israeli schools and colleges

Minister to punish boycott supporters

by Jonathan Cook,
Dissident Voice

July 2010

Hundreds of Israeli college professors have signed a petition accusing the education minister of endangering academic freedoms after he threatened to “punish” any lecturer or institution that supports a boycott of Israel.

The backlash against Gideon Saar, a member of the prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party, comes after a series of moves suggesting he is trying to stamp a more stridently right-wing agenda on the Israeli education system.

The education minister has outraged the 540 professors who signed the petition by his open backing of a nationalist youth movement, Im Tirtzu, which demands that teachers be required to prove their commitment to right-wing Zionism.

Two of Mr Saar’s predecessors, Yossi Sarid and Yuli Tamir, are among those who signed the petition, which calls on the minister to “come to your senses ... before it’s too late to save higher education in Israel”.

Mr Saar’s campaign to “re-Zionise” the education system, including introducing a new right-wing Jewish studies syllabus and bringing soldiers into classrooms, has heightened concerns that he is stoking an atmosphere increasingly hostile to left-wing academics and human-rights activists.

Neve Gordon, a politics professor at Ben Gurion University in Beersheva who called for an academic boycott of Israel last year, has reported receiving death threats, as has a school teacher who refused to participate in Mr Saar’s flagship programme to encourage high-school recruitment to the Israeli military.

Daniel Gutwein, a professor of Jewish history at Haifa University, said: “A serious red flag is raised when the education minister joins in the de-legitimisation of the academic establishment. This is a method to castrate and abolish Israeli academia.”

Mr Saar’s sympathies for Im Tirtzu were first revealed earlier this year when he addressed one of its conferences, telling delegates the organisation would be “blessed” for its “hugely vital” work.

The youth movement emerged in 2006 among students demanding that the government rather than ordinary soldiers be held to account for what was seen as Israel’s failure to crush Hizbollah during that year’s attack on Lebanon. It has rapidly evolved into a potent right-wing pressure group.

Its biggest success to date has been a campaign last year against Israeli human rights groups that assisted a United Nations inquiry led by Judge Richard Goldstone in investigating war crimes committed during Israel’s assault on Gaza in 2008. The human rights organisations are now facing possible government legislation to restrict their activities.

Im Tirtzu’s latest campaign, against what it calls “the reign of left-wing terror” in the education system, was backed by Mr Saar during a parliamentary debate last month. He told MPs he took very seriously a report by the movement claiming that anti-Zionist professors have taken over university politics departments and are silencing right-wing colleagues and students.

Mr Saar also warned that calls for boycotts against Israel were “impossible to accept” and that he was talking to higher education officials about taking “action” this summer, hinting that he would cut

funds for the professors involved and their institutions.

Yossi Ben Artzi, the rector of Haifa University and the most senior university official to criticise Mr Saar, warned him against “monitoring and denouncing” academics. He added that the Im Tirtzu report “smells of McCarthyism”.

The universities are already disturbed by a bill submitted by 25 MPs last month that would make it a criminal offence for Israelis to “initiate, encourage, or aid” a boycott against Israel and require them to pay compensation to those harmed

The education minister outraged 540 professors who signed the petition by his open backing of a nationalist youth movement, Im Tirtzu, which demands that teachers be required to prove their commitment to right-wing Zionism.

by it.

The bill is likely to be treated sympathetically by the government, which is worried about the growing momentum of boycott drives both internationally and in the occupied West Bank. Mr Netanyahu has called the emergence of a boycott movement inside Israel a “national scandal”.

Prof Gordon, who wrote a commentary in the Los Angeles Times a year ago supporting a boycott, said Im Tirtzu had contributed to a growing “atmosphere of violence” in the country and on campuses.

Hundreds of students at his university have staged demonstrations demanding his dismissal. He was also recently sent a letter from someone signing himself “Im Tirtzu” calling the professor a “traitor” and warning: “I will reach Ben Gu-

rion [University] to kill you.”

Prof Gordon said: “I have tenure and Im Tirtzu cannot easily get me fired. But they are trying to become the ‘guards at the gate’ to make sure other academics do not follow in my path.”

Only three Israeli academics have so far openly endorsed a boycott, he added, with many others fearful that they will be punished if they do so. But Im Tirtzu and its supporters were using the issue as a pretext for cracking down on academics critical of right-wing policy. He called Israel an increasingly “proto-fascist” state.

Prof Gordon cited the recent case of Assaf Oren, a statistics lecturer and peace activist who had been told he was the leading candidate for a post in Ben Gurion’s industrial engineering depart-

ment until right-wing groups launched a campaign against him.

In a further sign of what Prof Gordon and others have labelled a McCarthyite climate, MPs in the parliamentary education committee — which has come to closely reflect Mr Saar’s views — summoned for questioning two head teachers of prestigious schools after they criticised official policies.

One, Ram Cohen, has condemned Israel’s occupation of the Palestinians, while the other, Zeev Dagani, has spoken against the programme to send army officers into classrooms to encourage pupils to enlist.

Mr Dagani was the only head teacher in the 270 selected schools to reject the programme, saying he opposed “the blurring of boundaries when officers

come and teach the teachers how to educate”. He subsequently received a flood of death threats.

The education ministry has announced a new core curriculum subject of Jewish studies in schools that concentrates on nationalist and religious themes and is likely to be taught by private right-wing and settler organisations.

Avi Sagi, a philosopher at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, warned in the liberal Haaretz newspaper that the syllabus offered “an opening for dangerous indoctrination”.

A modern history curriculum published this month has been similarly criticised for leaving out study of the Oslo peace process and Palestinian politics.

Also in the sights of education officials are hundreds of Arab nursery schools, many of them established by the Islamic Movement. Zevulun Orlev, head of the education committee, has accused the schools of “poisoning the minds” of Arab children in Israel.

Mr Saar appointed a special committee last month to inspect the schools and shut them down if they were found to be teaching “anti-Israel” material.

Arab MPs have called the claims “ridiculous”, pointing out that the schools were set up after the education ministry failed to build nursery schools in Arab communities.

A shorter version of this article originally appeared in The National, published in Abu Dhabi.
Reprinted from Electronic Intifada. electronicintifada.net



Group Treatment Room
Comfortable Recliners

Sliding-Scale from \$20-\$40

2801 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia
Ph. (360) 943-6730

www.cas-olympia.com

Student Discount with ID

TATTOOS

THE NEW ALTERED STATES

All new staff. New manager. Totally new Interior. Come see what the BUZZZZ is about!

myspace.com/alteredstatestattoo

307 4th Ave E; Downtown Olympia, Wa 98501 (360)754-6623

ALTERED STATES

BODY PIERCING • DERMAL ANCHORS

Centralia Square Antique Mall

3 floors to explore • Restaurant • Bookstore

Directions from Olympia
South on Interstate 5
Off at Exit 62 (Factory Outlets)
East on Harrison
Right on Pearl
201 S Pearl & Locust

Open 7 days
10 to 5



“... a political struggle that does not have women at the heart of it, above it, below it, and within it is no struggle at all.” —Arundhati Roy

Africa Needs Free Justice



A mobile event and intentional community created for the design, collaboration, and implementation of multicultural, multimedia social

justice projects and groups. A training grounds and theory-meets-action camp for social justice organizers and those who desire to become social justice organizers.

www.AfricaNeedsFreeJustice.org
for community information, click on 'Intentional Community.'

A World Beyond Capitalism
The Fifth Annual International Multiracial Alliance Building Peace Conference, Love Revolutionary's Rejuvenation Retreat and School
www.aworldbeyondcapitalism.org

Love, Peace, and Beautiful Bike Rides
Love and sustainable transportation movement and awareness project
www.BlueSkyLink.org

Internships and Volunteer Positions Available.
Women's empowerment media activism and much more.
Evergreen College credit available.
LGBTQI and people from all backgrounds are welcome.
Many positions are customized around your schedule.

“We love you all!” ~Peace Communities Progressive Coalition
www.PeaceCommunities.org

Suspects Arrested for Assassinations,
Coalition Reasserts Mining Motive

In a July 13 statement after the arrest of 8 suspects in connection to the murders of anti-mining activists from the rural department of Cabañas, El Salvador, the National Roundtable Against Metallic Mining (the Mesa) criticized the investigation for ignoring glaring ties to gold mining interests in the region. On July 1, the National Civil Police (PNC) and the Attorney General's Special Organized Crime Unit (DECO) announced the arrests of 8 individuals for the murders of Dora Alicia Sorto Recinos and her unborn child, Ramiro Rivera and Felicita Echeverría in December of last year. Rodolfo Delgado, the director of the DECO, announced that the murders were due to a family feud and that two families had contracted gang members to kill members of the rival families. He went on to say that the mining conflict was not the principal motive for the murders and that the Attorney General was satisfied that all the material authors and the two intellectual authors of the crime were in custody.

In their statement, the Mesa criticized three major aspects of the investigation. First, the Mesa rejected the hypothesis that the mining conflict was not the principal motive, pointing out that among the suspects are former paid promoters of the Canadian mining company Pacific Rim and that both Sorto and Rivera had been receiving death threats referencing their opposition to Pacific Rim's mining projects prior to their murders. Second, the Mesa is not satisfied that all intellectual authors have been investigated and arrested. Investigators have failed to look into or explain how two, poor campesino families would have the money to hire assassins. Finally, the Mesa denounced the lack of convictions concerning other cases of violence against anti-mining activists including the kidnapping, torture and murder of Marcelo Rivera, death threats against the staff of Radio Victoria, as well as threats and murder attempts of other local environmentalist leaders.

Cabañas Community and CISPES Delegation Honor Marcelo Rivera

On June 24, hundreds of people gathered in the town square of San Isidro, Cabañas to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the forced disappearance and murder of Marcelo Rivera, with a public event organized by the local grassroots organizations of the Progressive Coalition for Life (Mesa Progresista por la Vida). Despite the somber occasion, vibrant performances by youth community theater, rock bands, local organizer and rap singer MC Letal and speeches from community activists kept spirits high and sent the positive message that the communities will continue organizing to defend Cabañas from Pacific Rim's proposed gold mines, in spite of the violence and impunity they face.

Members of the first CISPES Radical Roots Delegation - a delegation of Salvadoran young adults raised in the US and Canada - also participated in the commemoration, reporting on the solidarity organizing in the US against impunity in Cabañas and against Pacific Rim's multi-million dollar lawsuit against the Salvadoran government. Delegates pledged CISPES' commitment to accompany the communities of Cabañas in this struggle and presented a banner dedicated to the anti-mining martyrs.

The next day, the delegates issued a press statement denouncing the continued impunity in Cabañas, demanding a thorough investigation into the intellectual authorship and role of Pacific Rim in the violence against anti-mining activists and then presented those demands to the offices of the Attorney General. Delegates delivered their statement along with 200 postcards from Salvadorans living in the US, echoing the call for a thorough investigation into violence against movement leaders in Cabañas.

CISPES update

El Salvadoran news and developments

Read Salvadoran news coverage of the Radical Roots Delegation political action in the June 26 editions of the Diario CoLatino at www.diariocolatino.com/es/20100626/nacionales/81524/?tpl=69

Right Wing Parties Continue to Scramble and Divide

In-fighting within the Salvadoran political right has continued, since the first major split last October when one-third of ARENA's legislative deputies left the party to form the Great National Alliance, or GANA party. Last month, mayors and council members from the 13 ARENA municipalities in the department of Chalatenango publicly accused members of GANA of offering them government projects through the FISDL, the Social Investment Fund for Local Development, and large sums of money to join the new party. GANA leader and deputy

announced this plan in April. Domestic workers between the ages of 14 and 60 are now able to enroll in the Salvadoran Social Security Institute's (ISSS) Health and Maternity Special Regimen, a plan that provides comprehensive and affordable health care. Employers are responsible for a tax-deductible monthly fee of \$15.57; employees will pay just \$6.23 a month for their coverage. ISSS officials expect to enroll 5,000 domestic workers by December 2010, eventually providing coverage to 27,000 domestic workers by the end of President Funes' term in office.

Sixteen Killed in Bus Burning, FMLN Suspects Destabilization Plan

On Sunday, June 20, a grisly act of violence shocked El Salvador when armed assailants shot a public transit bus full of passengers and set it on fire in Meji-

Mesa rejected the hypothesis that the mining conflict was not the principal motive, pointing out that among the suspects are former paid promoters of the Canadian mining company Pacific Rim and that both Sorto and Rivera had been receiving death threats referencing their opposition to Pacific Rim's mining projects prior to their murders .

Guillermo Gallegos has denied the accusations, asserting that the ARENA elected officials approached GANA of their own accord, with interest in joining the party.

The right wing Christian Democrat Party (PDC) has also been weakened by internal divisions, after losing 3 of its 5 Legislative Assembly deputies in early June. Following the expulsion of Wil Salgado - the long-time, influential mayor of San Miguel - from the PDC for insubordination, three PDC deputies promptly quit the party and declared themselves independents. On June 30, 5 independent deputies united to create a new legislative group called "Leaders for Change", consisting of the 3 ex-PDC deputies, Orlando Arévalo - expelled in March of 2009 from the right wing Party for National Conciliation (PCN) - and Miguel Ahues, who renounced his GANA affiliation to join the group. Arévalo himself has recently founded a new center-right party, known as the the Popular Party, and established the Civic Movement for Liberty and Democracy as the social movement to back the new party.

This high degree of internal turmoil and power struggle within the right is clearly linked to the historic victory of Mauricio Funes and the leftist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) in the 2009 presidential elections, and the ongoing search for a viable right wing party to rival the political force of the FMLN in future elections. With the recent shifts, the current composition of the Legislative Assembly is: 35 FMLN seats, 18 ARENA, 13 GANA, 10 PCN, 5 Leaders for Change, 2 PDC and 1 Democratic Change (CD). In spite of the divisions, right wing parties continue to hold the most seats in the Legislative Assembly and can still unite to pass legislation or block FMLN proposals.

Domestic Workers Granted Health Care Coverage

On July 2, El Salvador's housekeepers, gardeners, cooks, childcare providers and other domestic workers officially became eligible for federal health care coverage, 3 months after President Funes

death penalty and ARENA demanded that Funes fire his cabinet appointees, Minister of Public Security Manuel Melgar and PNC Director Carlos Ascencio, both FMLN members. The FMLN denounced the act of violence as more than gang-related and raised questions about whether this incident and other recent acts of violence are part of a larger destabilization plan to undermine and counteract the new government's security policies. Community organizations, FMLN base committees and schools organized various activities and mobilizations in Mejicanos, San Salvador and around the country to honor the victims and call for peace in the communities.

Social Movement, FMLN and Funes Denounce Honduran Coup Leader's Visit

On June 21, San Salvador's ARENA Mayor Norman Quijano received Honduran coup leader Roberto Micheletti in San Salvador, bestowing him the title of "Distinguished Visitor" at a lavish reception attended by ARENA party leadership. Mayor Quijano told the press that the party was honoring Micheletti for his "outstanding labor in favor of democracy in his country." Micheletti also had closed-door meetings with the business sector during his visit. The Salvadoran right wing and particularly the ARENA party have expressed strong support for the coup leader and the de facto government he created after the Honduran military kidnapped President Manuel Zelaya at gunpoint and exiled him to Costa Rica.

Micheletti's 2-day visit was kept very quiet, with the press and public unaware of the visit until hours before the reception. Social movement groups quickly organized protests, decrying the political murders, violence and forced disappearances carried out under Micheletti's regime, and the political violence that has continued under Porfirio Lobo's controversial presidency. The FMLN officially denounced the visit, stating: "Because of his anti-democratic behavior, violations of human rights and disrespect for international organizations, the FMLN declares Roberto Micheletti persona non grata in El Salvador." President Mauricio Funes joined the party in vehemently condemning the coup leader's presence in El Salvador. 🔥

TRADITIONS

CAFE & WORLD FOLK ART

WWW.TRADITIONSFAIRTRADE.COM



300 5th Avenue SW

Olympia 98501

360-705-2819

Store Hours

M-F: 9-6 Sat: 10-6 Sun: 12-5



Cartridge Care Inc.

THE PRINTER EXPERTS since 1990

TONER - FILM - INK JETS

Remanufactured and new - Hundreds in stock

REPAIR - SERVICE - SALES for

Printers - Fax - Copiers - Plotters

Free Pick Up & Delivery

1314 Lebanon St. SE - Lacey

360-459-8845

► **LATIN AMERICA**, continued from page 8
single day we are fighting and we are struggling to change that. Revolution is a process that is not perfect anywhere. We've made some mistakes and we recognize that. There is a lot that we have to do and need to do for 30 million people in such extreme poverty. We are going to break through this bureaucratic state. It doesn't matter how hard it is. "

I've been fortunate enough to see presentations from Amndan and another young, charismatic, Chavez-appointed Venezuelan ambassador named Martin Sanchez that explained their country and its policies to audiences in Olympia and Vancouver, BC. Sanchez went to humbled lengths in explaining some particular people's movement within Venezuela that formed independently of Chavez (while or before he was in power) that receives unconditional financial support from the government, unless legislative interference arises. Both ambassadors' ability and readiness to identify pragmatic faults and limitations within the government of this revolution demonstrated to me its remarkable character. These nuances are unfortunately dismissed within the US in its fixation of Chavez's power.

South of the Border film review

A revealing indication to this perception of Chavez was vividly reinforced with the recent release of Oliver Stone's documentary, *South of the Border*. The film, which will be shown by Olympia Film Society Sept. 3-9, gives a compelling summary (written by scholars Mark Weisbrot and Tariq Ali, narrated by Stone) of recent developments in Latin America with a particular focus on the economic impositions of the International Monetary Fund, Venezuela and Hugo Chavez's rise to power, and most significantly, the US media portrayal of these events. This summary occurs within the first 30 minutes of a 78-minute film.

The controversial latter half of the film is a first-person perspective by Stone as he travels and interviews various leaders in the countries most actively determined to free themselves from US influence -- Evo Morales of Bolivia, Cristina and Nestor Kirchner of Argentina, Rafael Correa of Ecuador, Lula of Brazil, Raul Castro of Cuba and, most prominently, Chavez.

Stone is an awkward interviewer whose movie director (i.e. controlling) tendencies get the better of him in occasional and somewhat amusing instances among these leaders. But the simple purpose of the documentary is to put a face to the names we read about in the US, but never see talk and represent their countries. Admittedly, the film's flaw is not providing anything beyond a cursory glance to the people's movements within these countries that are responsible for every leader interviewed. Yet *Border's* brief length and specific purpose aforementioned adequately justify this flaw and the film is still worth seeing.

After you watch *South of the Border*, it's fascinating to read reputable film critics in the US denouncing Stone and occasionally the film's purpose if they can even identify it. Film critics are a social barometer within the US -- particularly in this instance since the job doesn't require any advance political knowledge. As I read the 'top critics' on rotentomatoes.com (an online film review aggregator for many print and online critics), two predominant and misleading themes emerged: the documentary is a fawning, propaganda piece devoted toward sympathizing us to Chavez and that the film isn't objective.

This latter point provides a tiring refrain among established and institutional forces in our society that demand every journalistic piece maintain some objective distance as if people lack the capacity to reach their own conclusions and do further research when presented with subjective works. (It is both impos-

sible and worthless to limit yourself to one source -- book, film or news piece -- in educating yourself about anything.) The critics' fixation on Stone's focus of Chavez often overlook or briskly deal with other major focuses of the film including US media influence and economic repression of the independent Latin American forces. Even complimentary reviews feel "objectively" compelled to maintain their corporate media outlook such as this line from the *Entertainment Weekly* review: "Stone gets cozy with Hugo Chávez, soft-pedaling the Venezuelan president's crackdown tendencies." Oddly enough, the only review among these 'top critics' that includes substantial revelations within the film is from the New York Times (such as a stunning admission by "Mr. Kirchner" of a private conversation with President W. Bush).

Opportunities within Olympia

The solidarity movement in the US to support Latin American independence movements since the 1980s is quite stunning in scope. If you were to factor in the quantitative effort involved

The simple purpose of the documentary is to put a face to the names we read about in the US, but never see talk and represent their countries.

in establishing sister city associations, caravan aid campaigns, educational and voter observation delegations, sanctuary movements and advocacy to end counter-revolutionary US military training and support, you would see a movement that has involved thousands of people in the US.

Within Olympia alone, the advocacy and support for educating people about the US influence over Latin America is particularly vibrant. For example, an upcoming evening event at Traditions Cafe on August 6 will present the perspective of three Honduran activists including a musical performance by radical feminist Karla Lara. With the coup government in place there now, it becomes essential to get first-person perspective on what happens in Honduras and to what extent the US supports the coup. When Zelaya was ousted, it didn't take long for countries to globally condemn the coup and withdraw financial support. Except the US, which now accepts the current government as legitimate (after a period of contradictory assessments from State officials that both approved and condemned Zelaya's forced removal) and continues to provide aid critical to sustaining the coup.

Manolo de los Santos, 21, a Dominican-born organizer who lives in New York City and spoke in Olympia recently for a Cuba event, explained the coup through his youthful perspective.

"The issue of Honduras is something that struck our generation," de los Santos said. "We were born at a time when we didn't believe military coups could still take place. Not to say we were fully naïve or that we underestimated the ability of US imperialism but we thought that era had passed. But the military coup in Honduras shattered that.

"But what was also shattered was the idea that there were no social movements in Honduras. Because immediately with this coup a resistance movement was born. Women became a core part of that, young people became a core part of that."

There are other long-term solidarity presences in Olympia that speak to this community's capacity to work beyond the poor standards of our government's treatment of Latin America: Citizens in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), the Santo Tomas (Nicaragua) Sister City Association, the Pastors for Peace annual caravan to Cuba, among others. If you attend their events, you will gain insight into how to travel to these countries in a productive capacity that would be far more illuminating than as a typical tourist.

Hundreds of students and Olympia

Two events on Latin America

Honduran music and resistance

August 6, Friday - 7pm
Traditions Café

Honduran organizers Oliver Her-
nan Valladares and Carmen Daly will
be speaking about recent social re-
gression and government repression
after last year's coup. Also perform-
ing is Honduran singer and activist
Karla Lara. Donation of \$10-25. Host-
ed by the Latin American Solidarity
Organization.

South of the Border screenings

Sept 3-9
Olympia Film Society

In his newest documentary, Oliver
Stone explores the social and politi-
cal movements of five nations in the
Western Hemisphere, as well as the
mainstream media's misrepresenta-
tions of Latin America.

All screening times are on page 19,
or at www.olympiafilmsociety.org.

residents have traveled to Venezuela in the last 10 years and it's worthwhile to seek them out and discuss frankly their observations of the social movements there.

"I think there is a lot we can learn from Latin America right now, particularly Venezuela. There's a lot of revolutionary and radical changes happen- ing for the country. It's important to recognize those changes and the challenges they're still facing which are nu- merous," local student Sascha Fischel-Freeman said of his year-long experience there.

One compelling reason to educate yourself on the community movements happening within Latin America is the hopeful reminder of adversity through overwhelming challenges. Social move- ments have persisted through decades of state oppression and, in moments of vic- tory, established governments reflective of the people instead of market forces.

As domestic tension within the US tightens due to a complete lack of con- trol to determine our economic future, a bleak assessment could emerge without educating ourselves to the alternatives our Latin American neighbors created after decades of neoliberal oppression.

To clarify, I'm not claiming progres- sive movements in Latin America offer

a transferable blueprint or are an educa- tional necessity for the US to organize. In fact, the community engagement and empowerment in this region alone is in- spiring enough. When you realize what military veteran organizers at Coffee Strong are doing to reach out to active duty soldiers or what alternatives Par- ents Organizing for Welfare and Eco- nomic Rights is forming to combat the hardships of poverty (check out their newly forming childcare collective at olycc.wordpress.com), you realize people here are already building the foundation for institutional and societal change.

What popular movements in Latin America show us is that their organiz- ing ambitions can become fully realized from thought to practice and can even take control of government.

Brendan Funtek is a local community organizer. He can be reached at Moby-Dick1980@netscape.net

Online news resources to read on Latin America:
chavezcode.com
cispes.org
fnrphonduras.blogspot.com
granma.cu/ingles
narconews.com
soaw.org
upsidedownworld.org
venezuelaanalysis.com 🔥

Fresh. Local. Affordable.

Olympia Food Co-op

Community owned since 1978

West: 921 N Rogers
(360) 754-7666

East: 3111 Pacific Ave SE
(360) 956-8870

Going nuclear in the American Power Act

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

For many people dedicated to environmental sustainability, President Barack Obama’s energy policy has been less than satisfying—to say the least. Even before his election, Obama has defended the most arcane and dangerous sections of our energy systems: coal, oil, and nuclear power. Unfortunately two of these forms of energy—coal with the Massey Energy explosion, and oil with the BP oil spill—have already seen tragic accidents which have not only resulted in the lost of life of workers, but immense destruction to the environment. Such accidents should make the president and congress leery of promoting and/or deregulating dirty and dangerous forms of energy. Sadly though this is not the case. Instead of imposing tighter restrictions, or better yet encouraging the growth of renewable sources, the tragedies in coal and oil are being used to promote a reckless deregulating of nuclear power as part of a new bill—titled the American Power Act—that is currently being drafted in congress.

Since taking office, Obama has proclaimed the benefits of “clean coal” technologies, even though his former adviser on green job creation Van Jones openly mocked the idea. Numerous scientists and environmental activists have proclaimed that such technologies are—at best—a prospect for a distant future. Regardless, Obama’s stimulus package included a \$1 billion investment into clean coal technologies. Not even a year after Obama’s billion dollar give away to coal, Massey Energy’s Upper Big Branch Mine exploded—leaving 29 coal miners dead and the surrounding area seriously polluted. The tragedy brought to light the serious folly of years of deregulation. In 2009 alone, Massey Energy had accumulated 5000 violations from the Mine Safety and Health Administration—200 of those violations were deemed to be “significant and substantial” and 50 were tagged as “unwarrantable failure” to comply. Despite these violations, Massey Energy has not only been allowed to continue operating, but was granted a reward by the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association for “their exemplary commitment to safety excellence.”

The tragedy of the BP oil spill on April 20, has been even more devastating to

the environment, economy, and long term health risks of the people in the Gulf Coast. Just a few weeks before the spill on April 2, Obama claimed that oil rigs “generally don’t cause spills,” that they are too “technology advanced.” Unfortunately the Deep Water Horizon explosion didn’t agree with Obama’s too “technology advanced” views. The explosion killed 11 BP employees, and so far has resulted in 90 to 170 million gallons of oil being spilled into the ocean. Throughout the mess, BP has sought to minimize the damages it caused—releasing bogus science reports that greatly underestimate the harm and nature of the spill, refusing health and safety equipment to those working on cleaning up the spill, and launching a public relations campaign that exaggerates the work of the clean-up effort. Like with Massey Energy, the explosion exposed a list of safety and environmental vio-

Americans now face the possibility of President Obama making his third energy mistake. Like with coal and gas, Obama has supported the use of nuclear energy from day one.

lations, revealing BP as having—in the worlds of Tyson Slocum of Public Citizen--“one of the worst safety records of any oil company operating in America.”

Americans now face the possibility of President Obama making his third energy mistake. Like with coal and gas, Obama has supported the use of nuclear energy from day one. His administration approved an initial \$8.3 billion in loan guarantees to the Southern Company for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Augusta, Georgia. The loans come as part of a tripling of nuclear power plant construction loans guarantees from the Department of Energy. The total amount set aside for nuclear energy is now \$54.5 billion. And like coal and gas, nuclear energy faces a relaxing regulatory system that could get dramatically worse with the passage of the present draft of the American Power Act.

Nuclear energy proponents in Congress have been touting the “nuclear regulatory structure as superior to that used for oil drilling and even as a possible model for oversight of the petrochemical industry,” reports Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). However, PSR is quick to point out that these “same individuals are quietly working behind the scenes to push through BP-

like regulatory rollbacks that would dramatically reshape safety and environmental requirements for new reactors.” Specifically, PSR is concerned about four provisions in the American Power Act that would

seriously undercut the current regulatory regime: section 1108 eliminates the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) ability to prevent nuclear power plants from coming on-line even if safety measures had been seriously compromised during the construction process; section 1109 raises the bar for mandating an environmental analysis of new reactors; section 1101 requires the NRC to favor speed over safety by implanting an “expedient procedure” for issuing Construction and Operating Licenses for new plants; and section 1105 would eliminate mandatory hearings for citizens and residents who believe they would be seriously affected by the building and operating of a nuclear power plant in their communities.

What makes these deregulation methods so frightening is that the current nuclear regulatory system already falls seriously short of guaranteeing public safety and environment security. In 2007, the Union of Concern Scientists, in its report Nuclear Power in a Warming World concluded that while the United States has strong laws on the books regulating nuclear energy “the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does not enforce them consistently.” The NRC itself has reported that at least 27 of America’s 104 licensed

reactors are now leaking radioactive tritium. In Vermont, where the worst case of leakage has occurred, tritium has contaminated the water supply. The Vermont legislature had the option of renewing its nuclear power

plant’s tenure, but instead decided to phase it out, citing “an ask-no-questions corporate environment”—which included lying about safety requirements and short-cutting regulatory practices—among the plants owner and operator Entergy.

The drafting of the American Power Act is nearing it final stages. It is possible that the bill could makes its way to the president’s desk by the end of the summer. Without strong opposition from environmentalists, public health advocates, and peace activists, the provisions expanding and deregulating nuclear power will make it in; there is no reason to suspect that Obama would veto the bill based on these provisions. Despite the Democrats controlling the legislature and executive branches, the government continues to move in the wrong direction when it comes to energy policy. For the sake, not just of our country but the entire planet, it is necessary that Americans pressure their elected officials to see that our energy future is green--or the honest fact is we may not have an energy future at all.

Update: Right before WIP went to print, the Democrats dropped the American Power Act because they believed they didn’t have enough votes in the Senate to get it passed. The bill also included cap and trade efforts, and the Republicans said they were opposed to any such efforts. 🔥

► ISRAEL, continued from page 6

be used to promote inaction anywhere. That is, one cannot criticize anyone or anything because the US is not without sin.

If you’re going to boycott Israel, then you better stop using your cell phone because Israel invented the cell phone.

Believe it or not, this has been one of the most prevalent arguments against boycott received, indicating that various pro-Israel groups have been pushing this argument as the major talking point. Unfortunately, it has two major flaws:

1. It’s not true.
 2. It doesn’t make sense.
- Recall that boycott is a tactic, *not* a principle. The point is not to reject all things Israeli. The point is to employ nonviolent consumer-based activism within an international campaign in order to induce Israel to change its destructive policies.

Israel did not invent the cell phone, as is commonly argued. But even if it did, it would not mean we would necessarily reject cell phones. Nor does inventing the cell phone make it okay for Israel or the US (where the cell phone was actually created) to commit human rights abuses.

The first heart transplant was performed in apartheid South Africa. That did not make a boycott of South Africa any less relevant, nor did it mean that opponents of apartheid had to reject heart transplants.

Other commonly evoked inventions of Israel include the cherry tomato, voice mail, AOL Instant Messenger(!), and some ambiguous medical device that saved your life at some point. 99% of these claims are untrue, but they would be irrelevant even if they were true.

A boycott is so negative. Can’t we encourage change in the Middle East through positive energy? The Israeli government will change if we are nice to it.

A boycott is not a negative action. It is proactive action. It was not negative during the Civil Rights movement, and it was not negative during South African Apartheid. It was people taking action, nonviolently, where their governments failed or were complicit. The argument is often made that Israel simply requires positive encouragement. This was the same argument that the Reagan administration used to reject BDS against South Africa. They termed it “constructive engagement,” and it failed miserably. During the period of constructive engagement, the apartheid government increased its repression against black South African resistance, knowing that it could get away with it. Popular pressure eventually forced the Reagan administration to abandon constructive engagement and embrace BDS.

With Israel, the US has provided every gift imaginable, from the largest lump of US aid in the world, to UN Security Council veto power, to diplomatic cover, to concessions of every kind. This has only encouraged Israel to act with impunity. That is why the Israeli government was not afraid to humiliate the Obama administration with a “slap in the face” by declaring settlement expansion during Joe Biden’s visit in March. The Netanyahu government finally agreed to a temporary settlement freeze but then proceeded to violate that freeze.

Netanyahu has been caught quoted been as saying, “I know what America is. America is something that can easily be moved...80% of the Americans support us. It’s absurd.”

“Constructive engagement” enables Israel to act with impunity. The only recent time that the US has pressured Israel significantly was in 1992 when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused to cease settlement expansion. Bush Sr. then rejected Israel’s request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees. This was viewed as a monumental event and is credited with causing Shamir’s Likud party to lose to Labor in the subsequent Israeli elections.

Israel has been shown to only respond to international pressure. BDS is nonviolent international pres-

www.LokiLoka.com

A free online local directory

Sustaining a culture created by locally-owned businesses, small farms, artistry, community organizations and events

You'll be amazed at what you can find

Loki Loka

acupuncture is pretty cool.

http://2kensmith.blogspot.com/923.0826

ken smith, l.ac.

 LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1993

ORCA BOOKS

509 E. 4th Ave
Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-0123

www.orcabooks.com orca@orcabooks.com

 Community ACUPUNCTURE Studio

Group Treatment Room
Comfortable Recliners

Sliding-Scale from \$20-\$40

2801 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia
Ph. (360) 943-6730

www.cas-olympia.com

sure.

I'm progressive on the Israel/Palestine issue, and I disagree with this boycott.

Many people consider themselves progressive or liberal or leftist on the issue, but it is insignificant where people stand on the political spectrum. What matters is what people *are willing to do* to help end the conflict in which we are complicit. Boycott is a nonviolent option for justice that we can all participate in. It is being utilized internationally. It is an alternative to the violence that is so common in the region. It is endorsed by prominent South Africans because they understand the value of the international BDS movement in ending apartheid. Opponents to the boycott have so far offered no viable alternatives for working toward peace. We need to stop congratulating ourselves for our political positions and start considering things we can actually do to work for change.

Is this boycott calling for a one-state or two-state solution?

The boycott calls for neither two states nor one state. It calls for respecting international law and human rights.

As Omar Barghouti, an outspoken Palestinian promoter of BDS, explains, “The boycott, divestment and sanctions movement takes no position on the shape of the political solution. It adopts a rights-based, not solutions-based, approach.”

Unfortunately, at this stage, it is not worth talking about a one-state or two-state solution, because Israel allows neither. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims to support a two-state solution, but refuses to cede Israeli control over the Jordan Valley, the major settlements, any part of Jerusalem, and even West Bank airspace. Thus Netanyahu’s concept of a two-state solution does not support any semblance of an actual Palestinian state.

Regardless of the debate over two states or one, Israel needs to abide by international law and human rights standards.

Is the Co-op boycotting Jews?

Some people are claiming that the Co-op is boycotting Jews. The Co-op does not discriminate against Jews. It carries products marketed for observant Jews. It carries products produced by Jews.

When the Co-op instituted its China boycott, it was not construed as boycotting Chinese people or Asian-Americans. This is despite the fact that Olympia has a history of discrimination against Asians. In the late nineteenth century, Chinese immigrants living in Olympia were subjected to racist attacks and were driven out of town. During World War II, Japanese Americans in the area were imprisoned in internment camps. The only explicitly racially motivated killing in recent times was that of an Asian-American teenager who was stabbed and beaten to death by two neo-Nazi skinheads in downtown Olympia in 1992. Despite this history, it was understood that a China boycott was not more “anti-Chinese” or “anti-Asian” sentiment. People recognized that the China boycott was directed at the abhorrent actions of the Chinese government, and nobody complained that Chinese-Americans were not consulted before the boycott was instituted.

I'm not Jewish, so as an ally, I must take my cue from Jews on this issue.

To borrow from Martin Niemöller: “When they came for the Palestinians, I did not speak up because I was not a Jew.”

This is a mistaken application of an anti-oppression framework. It is tokenizing, stereotyping, and racist.

To illustrate, ask yourself (if you’re not Chinese): would you ask a Chinese-American for permission to criticize China over its treatment of Tibet?

Would you ask a white Arizonan for permission to criticize Arizona for its racist, anti-immigrant policies?

Let’s break down the problems with this thinking:

1) Jews are not monolithic. There are Jews on “both sides” of the issue. One cannot judge the breadth of “Jewish

opinion” and assess a “Jewish consensus” merely through one’s Jewish friends.

Moreover, Jews who support the boycott have been marginalized the most. They have been marginalized by non-Jews who claim that their support of the boycott is not a “real” Jewish opinion. And they have been marginalized by other Jews who have accused them of being “self-hating Jews” and “kapos”—essentially race traitors. Pro-boycott Jews have been told by other Jews (by a local rabbi, even) that they do not belong to “the Jewish community.” They have also been accused of misrepresenting Jews to the gentiles by being outspoken.

The greatest and most anti-Semitic attacks have been committed by anti-boycott Jews against pro-boycott Jews. The Jewish voices that worry about anti-Semitism from the boycott are not coming to the defense of these Jews.

2) It is tokenizing and reductive to consider Jews in one’s community to be the arbiters of acceptable discourse and action on Palestine/Israel.

3) Granting Jews the role of arbiters ignores the thoughts and feelings of Arabs and Muslims in the community who also have a stake in the issue. Jews in the community have been featured prominently in news articles about the Co-op boycott, while Arabs and Muslims in the community have complained about being ignored—or worse, demonized. Supporters of the boycott have been accused of supporting terrorists, Jew-killers, jihadists, Islam-o-fascists, the stoning of women, and female genital mutilation—all sorts of racist and Islamophobic stereotypes.

4) As most Jews in the United States are white (while acknowledging that there are many Jews who are not white), and as mainstream US perception of Jews are as whites, this stance gives deference to Jews via white privilege.

There is a greater affinity to white Jews within the US mainstream due to shared Judeo-Christian heritage (regardless of the existence of Palestinian Christians) and greater positive exposure (or at least more well-rounded exposure) in the media. Thus Jews are easier to identify with than Palestinians, who are viewed as foreign, oriental, exotic, and other. Consequently, the Palestinian stake in the conflict is less perceptible, less understood, and considered less relevant.

Jews in the community have been featured prominently in news articles about the Co-op boycott, while Arabs and Muslims in the community have complained about being ignored—or worse, demonized.

5) In fact, Palestinians are rarely mentioned at all in mainstream articles about the boycott, despite the fact that the boycott call originated from Palestinians. The Co-op boycott then becomes a matter that is only relevant to Jews.

6) Jews are perceived as having strong feelings about the boycott, while Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims are not considered to have feelings at all. If their feelings are ever registered, they are dismissed as biased.

7) It reduces the conflict to a Jewish affair—one in which Jews are expected to sort out.

8) Human rights is not strictly a Jewish issue. One should not have to seek Jewish consent before addressing human rights.

The fact that this very article is written by a Vietnamese-American immigrant and not by a white Jew—regardless of my exposure to the Palestine/Israel conflict—may make this article less relevant to some people. This is a difficult discussion to have, particularly coming from a “gentile” like myself. Unfortunately,

Palestinian rights and dignity cannot be put on hold until Jews work this out among themselves. To do so only perpetuates the notion that discourse of the Palestine/Israel conflict is “owned” by Jews.

This is also a catch-22 for organizers of the boycott. In order to dispel the notion that a boycott of Israel is inherently anti-Semitic, the organizers had to stress that Jews were closely involved in the organizing. Unfortunately, this meant voices of Palestinians and of Arab and Muslim organizers were marginalized. If Arab and Muslim voices had been stressed, the boycott would be viewed with more skepticism and subjected to more accusations of anti-Semitism—not to mention being subjected to greater racist vitriol on the web.

This does not delegitimize the feelings of Jews who may feel anti-Semitism or who feel uncomfortable at the thought of a boycott. Those feelings are real by virtue of them being felt. The trauma and pain of a legacy of anti-Semitism cannot be dismissed. Yet the problem is when discourse begins and ends with the feelings of Jews—and in particular the feelings of Jews who occupy a certain political position—to the neglect of the feelings of other people, and especially to the feelings of Palestinians who are physically oppressed, and who live and die by the consequences of our actions.

We need to be sensitive to the feelings of people historically oppressed, but that should never be used to ignore or excuse the sufferings of others.

For more frequently asked questions, visit www.olympiabds.org. Also please attend the teach-in, “Why Boycott? Why Divest?” on August 4 at 7 PM at Traditions Fair Trade. 🔥

Endorsements of Oly Food Co-Op Boycott

“Israeli Apartheid must be challenged and ended, and, like the movement to end apartheid in South Africa, the tools of boycott, divestment, and sanctions, coupled with popular education and collective organizing, are important ways to raise awareness of the Palestinian struggle for justice and to make clear that the world will no longer accept apartheid in Israel. Olympia BDS has made an important contribution to that ongoing struggle.”

—Anthony Arrove, co-author, *Voices of a People’s History of the United States*, author, *Iraq: The Logic of Withdrawal*, Brooklyn, NY

“The Olympia Food Co-op boycott of Israeli product bravely joins a growing worldwide movement on the part of citizens and the private sector to support by non-violent tangible acts the Palestinian struggle for justice and self-determination. When the UN and governments, most notably our own, fail to uphold basic rules of international humanitarian law and bring suffering to people anywhere, then there exists a human responsibility to act in solidarity. The Palestinians have been abused, and suffered for far too long, waiting futilely for their most fundamental rights to be respected.”

—Richard Falk, UN Special Rapporteur for Occupied Palestinian Territories; Board Chair, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation; nominee for Nobel Peace Prize 2008–2010; author of numerous books on international law and human rights

“I don’t think it’s brave that I supported the BDS call in 2008, when Gaza was being attacked and children were dying. The call was made in 2005. I’m ashamed that it took me this long. I’m not being humble when I say that I’m sorry, that it was nothing but cowardice. It was nothing but cowardice. But I ask all of you

out there who are on the fence to please join me.”

—Naomi Klein, author, activist, supporter of the Co-op boycott of Israel.

““I salute the great work of the people in Olympia. The decision taken by the Olympia Food Co-op is an important step toward just peace for all people living in Israel/Palestine.”

—Yonatan Shapira, Israeli Air Force Captain, co-founder of Combatants for Peace

“As Israel is perpetrating an illegal and immoral occupation of Palestine and inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip, I encourage your Co-op to support boycott, divestiture and sanctions against Israeli products or companies that support Israel or profit off of Israeli crimes....BDS is a peaceful way of confronting state-sanctioned and perpetrated violence.”

—Cindy Sheehan

“I applaud the Olympia Food Coop’s decision to take a stand for a just and equitable Middle East peace by acting on Palestinian Civil Society’s call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions. Cooperatives are inherently democratic organizations, and the Olympia Food Coop has shown that it is willing to work against the undemocratic apartheid system and occupation that strips Palestinians of their right to self-determination. Cooperatives have a long history of working for and with the oppressed to strive for a better world, and now Olympia Food Coop has been the first to build off of that legacy. I encourage other cooperatives, grocers, and businesses to follow their courageous example of boycotting Israeli goods and for shoppers to support their principled stand.”

—Medea Benjamin, cofounder of CODEPINK and Global Exchange. Benjamin has helped to organize many delega-

tions to Gaza and the region, including the Gaza Freedom March. CODEPINK is also the lead organization of a campaign to boycott the Israeli cosmetic company AHAVA.

“As a person who has been to Gaza three times in 2009 and as a survivor of the Gaza Flotilla, I applaud your resolve to boycott Israeli products in the COOP grocery. Boycott and other challenges such as the Gaza Flotilla are the only way to get the Israeli government to change its policies. Stay strong against the flack you will get. You are doing the right thing.”

—Ann Wright, US Army Colonel (retired ready reserve) and highest ranking State Dept. official to resign in protest of the pending Iraq war. Wright helped establish the US embassy in Afghanistan following the initial 2001 US invasion and received the the State Dept.’s Award for Heroism for organizing the evacuation of 2,500 people from the civil war in Sierra Leone. Since her resignation from the State Dept., she has been a tireless activist for peace and justice, actively working against destructive US foreign policy, raising awareness of the situation in Guantanamo, working with Iraq Veterans Against the War, and confronting rampant sexual assault in the US military. She participated in the Gaza Freedom March in Egypt and was on board the Free Gaza Flotilla.

“It is right for citizens of the world to act and to signal that we will not continue to tolerate this outrage that has brought such pain and grief to so many for so long. Step by step, action by action, we must build support for justice and equality for all in Israel/Palestine -- support that government leaders will not be able to dismiss.”

—Cindy Corrie

► **PROPOSAL**, continued from page 7

a chorus of others here, in Olympia, and to the hundreds and thousands of other Jewish voices across this country and the world. We are Jewish, and our morality, our spirituality, and our Jewishness, demand that we take action against the suffering in Palestine.

I often hear folks worry that they don't want to become active on these issues because they don't want to offend Jews. I only wish that they could see that the truly offensive piece there is this notion that Jews are a monolithic group that speak with one voice and that support what Israel is doing in Palestine. This idea of Jews as one is incredibly "othering" and it has made up the foundation of the historical oppression of the Jews. I hope you'll join me in rejecting the notion that Jewish identity necessitates unconditional support for the government of Israel and for its human rights abuses.

I bet you're all familiar with the concept of a 'carbon footprint'. The Co-op, in fact, is quite conscious of its carbon footprint, and interested in the waves of environmental effects that ripple out from an organization like the Co-op. Well, the Israeli products that are on the shelves at the store are part of the Co-op's global oppression footprint. There is no side-

stepping this issue; it is here at the doorstep of the Co-op, and whichever decision is made, that will be the position of this organization. And let's be clear: the really radical option here, the position that puts the Co-op at odds with its membership and with its values, would be to decline to implement this boycott. That would be a much stronger stance taken, and one that would make me, as a working member, feel deep shame.

There may be a vocal opposition to this boycott, much greater outside our community than in, and they may make threats, but the greatest threat to the Co-op, at this time of expansion and opportunity, is the gradual disintegration of the passion that members like me feel for this unique organization that we hold so dear, as we let this lapse in our values drag on until it stops being just a lapse, and comes to represent an actual shift away from the values that for so long the Co-op has championed.

You are our elected Board of Directors. You are the leadership of this organization, our proxy, as member-owners. Our organization is in your capable hands, and it falls to you to act as the stewards of our global oppression footprint.

The Co-op has found itself on the wrong side of this issue for far too long. Please, institute the boycott. 🔥

False accusations of anti-Semitism, and avoiding real anti-Semitism in the BSD Movement

by Gar Lipow

Those of us supporting the Boycott Sanction Divestment (BSD) movement have to deal with false accusations of Anti-Semitism. Jews and non-Jews alike are involved in supporting the movement. Further supporting Palestinian rights does not mean opposition to the survival of Israel as a Jewish state. Noam Chomsky is an example of a pro-Palestinian Zionist.

At the same time, because there are a large number of Jews opposing the BSD movement, we have to be especially careful to avoid real anti-Semitism. Any time we are in a fight against oppression and a lot of the people are on the other side are part of a group either that is oppressed or even one against which widespread prejudice exists, those in the fight against oppression need to avoid their own dark side being triggered. Racism, sexism, queer-bashing, ableism and other isms including anti-Semitism are things we are all exposed to constantly. They may be part of us in ways we don't recognize. I don't know if anyone has ever been in a progressive struggle where the other side was represented by reactionary women, and men in that struggle started making sexist remarks. Anti-Semitism in this struggle would be the same thing.

One example would be trying to find the reactionary nature of the opposition especially Jewish. When we encounter a racist American Jew, the thing to re-

member is that racism is as American as apple pie. (Apple pie was invented in ancient Egypt, racism probably in an earlier time and place. Both exist throughout the world, and both are important parts of American culture.) We don't need to look for anything special in the Jewish experience to explain that racism. Rabid Palestinian bashing, rabid Muslim bashing, and support for vindictive and reactionary positions exist across ethnic and religious lines. We can find plenty of reactionary Christian Americans who are as vindictive and reactionary as it is possible to be. If someone starts singling Jews out from the American society as a whole that blindly supports oppressive Israeli actions, they are being anti-Semitic.

We want to avoid that for two reasons. One is that we simply don't want to be anti-Semitic. The other is that if we make remarks that are or appear to be anti-Semitic we give a weapon to the other side. I hope that first reason is as important to most of us as the second.

Gar W. Lipow is a longtime Olympia activist on a variety of issues who happens to be Jewish. 🔥



Seattle Hempfest

Frequently asked questions

What is Seattle Hempfest about?
Human rights. Equality. Freedom. We believe that adults in a free society deserve the right to make their own educated and informed choices about what they put into their own bodies. We believe that those important health choices should be made based upon truthful and accurate information. Of course Hempfest is about cannabis -- industrial hemp, medical marijuana and recreational use by otherwise law abiding, responsible adults -- but since Hempfest is a political rally and demonstration against America's laws criminalizing and imprisoning people who use cannabis, we see Hempfest as about freedom first, and the cannabis plant second.

What is Hempfest trying to achieve?
Several things. Seattle Hempfest advocates the decriminalization of marijuana for responsible adults, legal access to medical marijuana for patients who could be benefited by cannabis, and legal domestic hemp production. By producing a king size world class event Hempfest is demonstrating that cannabis enthusiasts can be as responsible, professional, and successful as anyone else. Hempfest features extensive educational and informational content presented by some of the nation's leading experts in the field of marijuana policy reform. We hope that all of this is contributing to the healthy, informed and energized local and national movement to change America's pot laws.

It's called Hempfest, why isn't it more about industrial hemp?
Hempfest features an area and stage called the Hemposium that features exhibits, displays, demonstrations, panel discussions and featured speakers on the issues that include industrial hemp and its many uses. There are many hemp product vendors at Hempfest to choose from. But any serious discussion about

Since Hempfest is a political rally and demonstration against America's laws criminalizing and imprisoning people who use cannabis, we see Hempfest as about freedom first, and the cannabis plant second.

Is Hempfest a political rally, a concert or arts and crafts fair?
Yes. Hempfest is first and foremost a political protest rally seeking to change America's pot laws and to educate the public on the many uses of the cannabis plant. Hempfest is a protestival.

Why is Hempfest Free? Couldn't you make more money if you charged?
We would never do anything that might potentially prevent someone from coming and hearing our message of freedom, liberty and responsibility. By being free, Hempfest retains its status as a constitutionally protected free speech event, and allows everyone to come and participate, regardless of income.

Does Hempfest's staff get paid? Where does all the money go?
No. Hempfest is almost completely staffed by volunteers. There are a few sub-contracted employees, like the secu-

rity people at both entrances that are required to fulfill our permit requirements, but essentially all Hempfest personnel are unpaid. Every dime that Hempfest makes goes directly back into Hempfest, so we can continue to increase the quality of the event and bring you our message of reform and responsibility. Nobody is getting rich off of Hempfest.

Where does all the money come from?
Hempfest is produced by revenue from arts, crafts, food and organizational vendors, contributions, merchandise sales, benefit events, program ad sales and sponsorship sales. Seattle Hempfest costs nearly \$300,000 to produce each year.

Do the bands get paid?
Very, very rarely. Every so often we have a headliner that requires partial compensation, but 95% of the acts are there to show their support. If a band is coming from the other side of the country, occasionally we will be able to reimburse for travel or lodging, but that is a rare occurrence.

Is Seattle Hempfest the biggest pot rally anywhere?
Yes. As far as we can tell it is.

Can anyone join Hempfest's staff?
Just about. Persons 18 years or older who are dependable and reliable, serious about cannabis reform and willing to refrain from any form of intoxication for the entirety of their shifts is welcome to participate in producing Hempfest. Hempfest staff is expected to abide by the rules and guidelines of Seattle Hempfest, and be reasonably presentable, courteous and helpful to fellow staff and attendees.

Can I get in trouble for attending or participating in Hempfest?
No. Hempfest is totally legal and protected by the United States Constitution under your right to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech. However, Hempfest is not a "free zone". All local, state and federal laws are in full effect at Hempfest, and Seattle parks are designated "Drug Free Zones" increasing penalties for selling and buying controlled substances. Hempfest is the worst place to attempt to buy or sell illegal substances of any kind. Please don't do it. That includes unauthorized food products like brownies or "goo-balls."

How can I support Hempfest? Can I get involved?
There are a variety of ways to support Seattle Hempfest. The quickest way would be to make a non-tax deductible financial contribution event by clicking on the "donate here" button on the Hempfest website. Donate. Your money will go directly to producing the world's largest cannabis reform event!

If you have activist experience and would like to become a member of the Seattle Hempfest organization, contact us at hempfest2010@hempfest.org. If you're new to activism but feel it's time to get involved and want to join our event staff, contact us through the Hempfest website. The Hempfest family is a great group of dedicated and passionate people with terrific morale and a real sense of community and purpose. 🔥

Seattle Hempfest is held on Saturday and Sunday August 21-22, from 10am to 8pm both days. It spans three Seattle waterfront parks: Elliott Bay Park (North Entrance), Myrtle Edwards Park, and Olympic Sculpture Park (South Entrance). Admission is free. For more information, visit www.hempfest.org.

ADVERTISE
IN
WIP!

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Works In Progress pizza party fundraiser!
And Mandala re-painting!
July 31, Saturday
Mandala painting: 5-6pm
Pizza Party: 6-9pm
Fertile Ground
311 9th Avenue, Olympia

Come out for a night of yum-my pizza in support of our local humble, free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based right here in Olympia. Wheat-free pizza dough will be available along with Wheat pizza dough.
\$10 suggested donation,
\$8 for WIP’s Facebook friends
\$5 for paid WIP subscribers
Come an hour early and join in on the repainting of the mandala at the corner of 9th and Adams. (The Mandala re-painting is, of course, free of charge.)
For more information, email us at olywip@gmail.com.

Children’s story time

Sundays - 1:30pm
Orca Books
509 4th Avenue E, Olympia
360.352.0123

Free storytime, every Sunday. Aimed for children ages 4-10.

Turkish cross cultural education event

August 2, Monday - 7pm
Traditions Café
5th and Water SW, Olympia
360.705.2819

This will be a presentation by the Pomegranate Connection, trauma treatment groups of Turkish and American psychotherapists in Ankara, Turkey treating women with a history of sexual and physical abuse and the symptoms of anxiety, depression, and difficulty in forming trusting relationships.

Tuesday read-in

August 3, Tuesday - 5—7pm
Last Word Books
211 4th Avenue East, Olympia
360.786.9673

Come sit and read, drink tea, and argue politics every Tuesday at Last Word Books!

Why boycott? Why divest?
August 4, Wednesday - 7—9pm
Traditions Café
5th and Water SW, Olympia

The Olympia Food Co-op is honoring the boycott of Israeli goods. The Evergreen student body voted overwhelmingly in support of divestment and boycotting Caterpillar. Why?
Learn about the globally growing BDS movement at this free, public Q&A.
Hosted by Olympia BDS.

An evening of Honduran music and resistance
August 6, Friday - 7pm
Traditions Café
5th and Water SW, Olympia
360.705.2819

The Latin American Solidarity Organization is pleased to present singer and activist Karla Lara, a Honduran native who will perform with local musicians at Traditions Café. Lara will address through her music the violence and turmoil in Honduras after last year’s coup ousted the elected government of the people, along with songs about feminist struggle and life.
Joining Lara to speak will be Honduran organizers Oliver Hernan Valladares and Carmen Daly. Valladares was attacked in his country by police last year during a protest that nearly cost him his life. Daly will speak toward the recent history of Honduras before the coup and what social advancements were stunted due to the new coup government’s activity in power.
Tickets for the event will range from \$10-25 to support the international outreach Honduras seeks in these tumultuous times.

Movies at the Mansion:
Dr. Strangelove: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
August 6, Friday
Doors open at 8pm, movie starts at 9pm
State Capital Museum
211 21 Avenue SW, Olympia
360.753.2580

Dr. Strangelove: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb – Starring Peter Sellers and George C. Scott. Directed by the great Stanley Kubric.
Film introduced by Washington State Historical Society Director David Nicandri. Sponsored by the City of Olympia Heritage Commission.

First Annual Sustainable Urban Homestead Tour
August 7, Saturday - 10am—4pm

A community potluck celebration from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at The Wendall Berry Garden on Olympia’s Eastside. Seven gardens open up their gates for this day only to educate the community about urban farming and self-sufficiency. Highlights of The Tour include chickens, solar panels, vegetable gardens, and nut and fruit trees. Attend the tour and learn about seed saving, rain water catchment systems, small-scale bee tending, and how to share large projects with neighbors and community members.
The Tour is free of charge and includes seven sites all over Olympia. For a map of the Tour and to register online go to www.sustainablesouthsound.org or call 360-357-2380 for more information.

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign meeting
August 10, Tuesday - 7pm *
Traditions Café
5th and Water SW, Olympia
360.705.2819

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices.
SSCCC meets at 7:00 pm at Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Dick Meyer at 360.705.2819, or visit www.southsoundcleanclothes.org .

Thurston County NOW meeting
August 10, Tuesday - 7pm *
Traditions Café
5th and Water SW, Olympia
360.705.2819

Planning, discussion and topics meetings for the next period. Includes Women’s Equality Day event planning for the State Capitol Museum, as well as state conference information.

*(Both events are occurring simultaneously in different parts of Traditions.)

Food Co-op public forum
August 11, Wednesday - 7pm
Olympia Center
222 Columbia St.

The Olympia Food Co-op’s Board of Directors is hosting a free, public comment forum on the recent decision to boycott Israeli products. Everyone is invited. Come be a part of the ongoing discussion!
For more information, go to www.olympiafood.coop

Scott Cossu Concert & Fundraiser
August 15, Sunday - 7pm
Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2300 East End St NW, Olympia
360.357.7224

One of Olympia’s best known musicians and composers, Scott has toured the world, giving more than 1,000 concerts. Scott’s latest recording projects include a fusion a of classical and jazz styles. Joining Scott at the piano is Jessica Blin on violin and vocals, and Van Manakas on guitar escription. (www.scottcossu.com)
Suggested Minimum Donation \$15. Proceeds from this event benefit Interfaith Works, an association of local faith communities and organizations committed to social change through interfaith understanding and cooperation.
Also a dessert auction - Tasty dessert samplers; bid on desserts to take home! (Seeking Dessert Volunteers - Do you make a fantastic dessert that deserves public raves? Contact Dan Ryan at peaceguy02@yahoo.com or 360-352-3293.)

Olympia’s 81st annual Pet Parade
August 21, Saturday
Lineup begins at 8am, parade at 10am
Judging 8:30 am - 9:45 am
Heritage Park to Sylvester Park
330 5th Avenue SW, Olympia
360.754.5420

On August 21st, kids 16 and under take to the streets of downtown Olympia decked out in costumes, with animals in tow and their hearts filled with excitement and joy. This year marks the 81st annual parade. Pet Parade is free and draw- more than 1,000 kids and pets - everything from dogs and cats to gerbils and llamas. Prizes are awarded in numerous categories. Over the years, costumes and categories have changed, but the idea remains the same — fun and creativity for kids and families.
Pet Parade Basics: We will be accepting donations of unopened cans and bags of pet food in Heritage Park. All donations will go directly to Thurston County Animal Services.
Place: Starts in Heritage Park on Water Street adjacent to Capitol Lake. The eight-block route ends in Sylvester Park on Legion Way. The theme for 2010 is “Once Upon A Time.”
No need to register... just show up, pets, kids and all. After the parade there will be free ice cream and goodie bags at Sylvester Park.
For more info, call 360.754.5420 .

Women’s Equality Day film screening - “Iron Jawed Angels”
August 26, Thursday
6:00—8:30pm (Doors open at 5pm)
Olympia Film Society
416 Washington Street SE, Olympia
360-754-6670

This August 26 marks the 90th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. The Thurston County League of Women Voters and National Organization for Women will commemorate “Women’s Equality Day” with a screening of “Iron Jawed Angels,” which tells the story of a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and her friend Lucy Burns (Frances O’Connor), who put their lives on the line to fight for American women’s right to vote.
Dir: Katja von Garnier/2004/123 minutes. FREE (donations accepted)

Community flapjack breakfast
August 27, Friday - 6:30am—11am
In front of Capitol Clubhouse
617 7th Avenue SE

Community gathering event sponsored by the Capital Clubhouse, serving Raspberry Pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee for a \$5 donation.

Olympia Hemp, Love & Freedom Rally
August 28-29
Saturday from 11am—8pm
Sunday from 11am—6pm
Heritage Park
330 5th Avenue SW, Olympia
olyhempfest@gmail.com

The Olympia Hemp, Love and Freedom Rally 2010 is a free and open to the public event held on the fourth weekend of August each year. originally founded in 2003 as the Olympia Hempfest but quickly grew into one of the cities major event in just a few years. Each year the Olympia Hemp, Love and Freedom Rally strives to break down the barriers and remind people about our heritage and our responsibility to come together and be active citizens.
Admission: Free with a \$5 suggested Donation. For more information, go to www.olyhempfest.com .

Movie: South of the Border
September 3-9
Olympia Film Society
Capitol Theater
206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

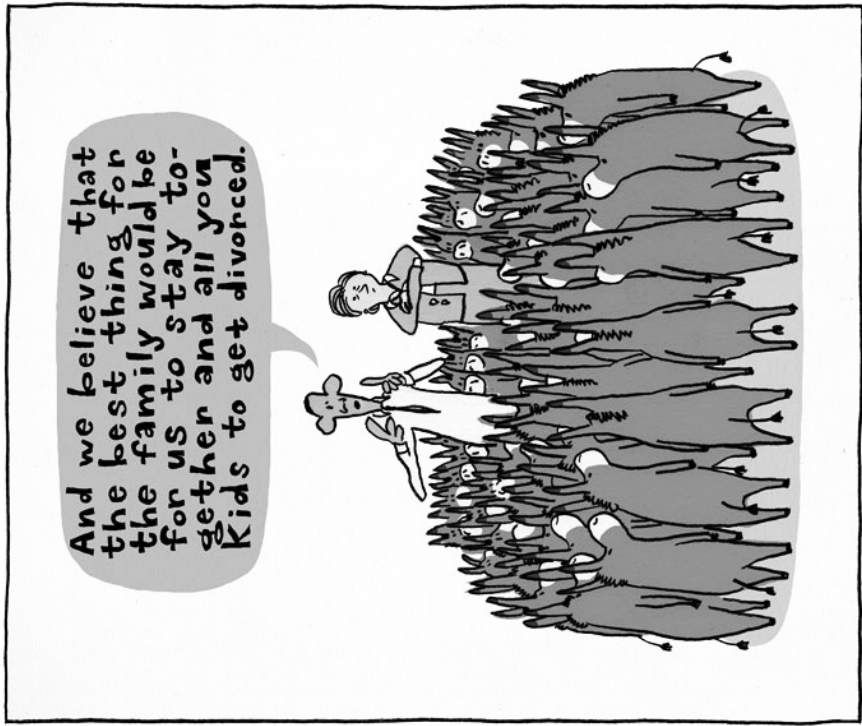
There’s a revolution underway in South America, but most don’t know it. Oliver Stone sets out on a road trip across five countries to explore the social and political movements as well as the mainstream media’s misperception of South America while interviewing seven of its elected presidents. In casual conversations with Presidents Chávez, Morales, Correa, Raúl Castro and more, Stone gains unprecedented access and sheds new light upon the exciting transformations in the region. escription.
Olympia Film Society show times:
Friday Sept. 3 — 6:30 pm
Sat. Sept. 4 — 9:00 pm
Sun. Sept. 5 — 2:30 pm matinee
Sun. Sept. 5 — & 7:30 pm
Mon. Sept. 6 — 6:30 pm
Tue. Sept. 7 — 9:00 pm
Wed. Sept. 8 — 6:30 pm
Thur. Sept. 9 — 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm
For more information, call OFS at 360.754.6670, or go to www.olympiafilmsociety.org .

August 2010

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990



MR. FISH

CONTENTS

- 1 Boycott, divestment, and sanctions - The FAQ
- 1 State Pharmacy Board backpedals on Plan B
- 5 The local fight for emergency contraception
- 7 Statements from boycott organizers
- 8 Looking up to the Global South
- 9 The biomass debate heats up
- 11 The Vienna Declaration on the War on Drugs
- 12 Silencing of dissent in the Israeli Parliament
- 14 News from El Salvador
- 16 Obama goes nuclear
- 18 Fighting anti-Semitism in the left

The Olympia Food Co-Op joins the boycott of Israeli products

Frequently asked questions and answers

Page 1



ALSO

The Pharmacy Board backpedals on emergency contraception - Page 1

The Vienna Declaration on the Drug War - Page 11

Looking up to the Global South - Page 8

WORKS IN PROGRESS FUNDRAISER

PIZZA PARTY AT FERTILE GROUND

SATURDAY · JULY 31ST · 6:00-9:30 PM

311 9TH AVE SE ~ OLYMPIA

EMAIL OLYWIP@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO

Support the Oly Food Co-op!!

On August 11, the Olympia Food Co-op's Board of Directors is hosting a free public comment forum on the recent decision to boycott Israeli products. Zionist groups from across the Puget Sound are planning to attend, to sway our local vote. Make your voice heard! Join millions around the world who are saying NO to genocide, NO to racism, and NO to the Israeli apartheid!

Wednesday, August 11
7:00pm - Olympia Center
222 Columbia St.



Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507